

**MISSOURI
STATE PARK AND HISTORIC SITE SYSTEM
EXPANSION PLAN**

PREPARED BY

**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF PARKS, RECREATION,
AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

in cooperation with
MISSOURI STATE PARK ADVISORY BOARD

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**MISSOURI STATE PARK ADVISORY BOARD
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SEPTEMBER 1992

**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
RON KUCERA, ACTING DIRECTOR**

**DIVISION OF PARKS, RECREATION,
AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
WILLIAM PALMER, DIRECTOR**

FOREWORD

During 1992, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources is celebrating the 75th anniversary of the state park and historic site system. This has been a year of celebration and reflection on 75 years of accomplishments.

It is only fitting in this anniversary year that we not only reflect on the past but also look ahead to the future.

Nearly five years ago, the department initiated an extensive project within the state park system. What began as a humble listing of criteria has evolved into a well organized process and plan for future state parks and historic sites. The Missouri State Park and Historic Site System Expansion Plan is the result of hours of research, numerous public meetings, and conversations and testimonies with elected officials. This was done in an effort to gain consensus on the future of the system.

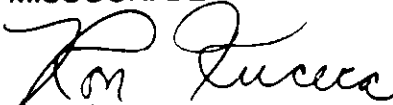
Although the document names specific sites for inclusion into the system, its strength is in the identification of a process and specific criteria for identifying gaps in the system. The items on the list may change, but the criteria should remain essentially the same for years to come.

Since this plan was initiated, we have had the opportunity to remove several gaps from the list. In fiscal years '91, '92 and '93 the department received appropriations for acquisitions of Taum Sauk Mountain, the Nathan Boone Home, and property along Big Sugar Creek in McDonald County. These sites are now being included in the system as state parks and historic sites.

Likewise, several additions were made to the list following the public meetings held in November and December 1991. In order for the list of gaps to remain up-to-date, we must continue to study and learn about the resources of our state and also to listen to the needs and wants of the public.

We are fortunate as Missourians to have such outstanding natural and cultural resources available for our outdoor recreation pursuits. It is important that we have a plan to guide us in properly preserving these resources for future Missourians.

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Ron Kucera
Acting Director

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Missouri Revised Statutes define a state park as "any land, site or object primarily of recreational value or of cultural value because of its scenic, historic, prehistoric, archaeologic, scientific, or other distinctive characteristics or natural features." This definition and the mission have been the guide for the development of the state park and historic site system for the past 75 years. It is not merely a random collection of parks and historic sites, but a group of interrelated sites functioning together. This is what makes the state park system different from other lands owned by public agencies and other park and recreation providers.

The identification of gaps in the system is not an easy task. First, in order to qualify for consideration, a site must be of statewide significance, contain the state's most outstanding natural or cultural resources, and be of high quality.

Recreation Gaps

Unlike many recreation providers who focus on creating recreational opportunities through development, the state park system has traditionally focused on the character of the land. The recreation activities that take place and all facility development should be inspired by the natural features of the landscape.

Identifying voids based on geographic distribution of parks is of limited value because if the land resource does not exist to satisfy a particular need, the need cannot be met. The criteria for selecting a state park site for recreation use must be based on the land and the potential for providing amenities that will allow the visitor to enjoy that land.

Natural History Gaps

Areas of natural heritage significance can generally be defined and classified by the use of natural themes or categories of natural phenomena, and land form regions. Several criteria are used for determining themes and what constitutes a significant state park landscape.

For the land to be of statewide significance, it should be of high integrity and be of sufficient size. The landscape design and selection process should afford protection to maintain a healthy functioning ecosystem and watershed quality.

Regional Representation

A new state park should provide as much representation of characteristic themes in a natural division or section where no state park presently exists.

Natural Theme Representation

Significant natural history themes depicting Missouri's landscapes are still lacking in several of the state's distinctive natural divisions or sections. These should be represented in the system.

Cultural/Historic Resource Gaps

In determining the significance of individual historic properties, the following factors must be evaluated:

- significance of the proposed historic property
- themes in Missouri history that the property represents
- chronological associations of the property
- geographical location of the property

All four of these factors are interrelated. In any one individual decision, all the factors should be considered, but one of the factors may be of overriding importance.

Significance: To be considered, a property must have significance in one or more of the following:

- a) association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
- b) association with the lives of persons significant in Missouri's past;
- c) as an embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, as a representation of the work of a master, as the possessor of high artistic values, or as a representation of a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction;
- d) as a site that has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Themes: The academic study of history is currently divided into several fields including economic history, political history, social history, military history, and intellectual or cultural history. Within these categories fall various themes of historical inquiry.

Chronology: In many ways, this is a more objective and quantifiable factor than significance or theme, but a degree of subjectivity remains. An underlying assumption must be made that no one period of time is inherently more significant than any other period of time. The goal for the state park system should be to provide opportunities for meaningful interpretation of all periods in Missouri's history.

Geography: Geographers have proposed various schemes for dividing Missouri into cultural and geographical regions. Further study is required in this area, however. For the present, the department proposes to use the county as the primary geographic unit in the state. One benefit of this is convenience in that National Register of Historic Places listings and the department's own statewide inventory of historic properties are arranged by county.

The Process

Those areas in which the statewide significant resource is threatened with irretrievable loss should be considered for priority acquisition. The availability of funding and having a willing seller also will play a role in the process. Likewise, the legislature must approve all funding for new park acquisitions. When the procedures outlined above have been followed, the decision making begins. Decisions made will represent the informed opinion of staff members, and others at that point in time.

INTRODUCTION

In the early part of this century, the federal government acknowledged the need to protect areas of significant scenic quality while also providing public recreation areas. In 1916, Congress created the National Park Service.

Almost simultaneously, states were also acknowledging the cries of citizens to preserve recreation lands at the state level. Following the example set at the federal level, the Missouri General Assembly passed a law establishing a state park fund in 1917. It was not until 1924 that the first state park was acquired. With the acquisition of Big Spring State Park in that year, the Missouri state park system was created.

The system continued to grow in those early years in both size and number. Missourians enjoyed these recreation areas and continued to support the system. Support also was growing for preservation of the state's outstanding natural and cultural resources. It was during these early years that the mission of the system was founded. This mission continues to guide the system today.

The fundamental mission of Missouri's state park system is threefold:

- to preserve and interpret the finest examples of Missouri's natural landscapes,
- to preserve and interpret the finest examples of Missouri's cultural landmarks, and
- to provide healthy and enjoyable outdoor recreation opportunities for all Missourians and visitors to Missouri.

The system has continued to grow and expand based on this mission.

PURPOSE

This document will identify gaps that currently exist in the Missouri state park system and will attempt to identify lands for future acquisition to fill these gaps. These purchase units will be representative examples of Missouri's finest landscapes, recreation areas, and historic landmarks. This plan will not identify inholdings or acquisitions proposed adjacent to existing state parks unless they are of significant acreage or contain a significant feature.

PUBLIC INPUT

In finalizing this document, the department went to the general public to gather their comments and ideas. More than 1,500 invitations were mailed to groups, organizations and individuals, inviting them to attend a public meeting. News releases were distributed statewide. Several hundred people attended seven public meetings held throughout the state. An accompanying slide show titled "Expanding for the Future" was used at the public meetings. All comments were recorded and the department prepared a responsiveness summary to address all of the questions and comments received (Appendix A).

The majority of those in attendance at the public meetings agree with the mission of the system. In general, the public favors expansion of the current system. Many participants feel the department should invest only in those recreation activities that are consistent with preservation of high quality environmental experiences.

PHILOSOPHY

All recreation areas are a combination of user and resource. What makes each kind of park system different is the emphasis put on each of these factors.

National parks were created initially for preserving natural and historic wonders of nationwide significance. National parks are primarily resource-oriented with recreation use occurring as a result of the resource.

State parks differ from national parks in the significance of the feature being preserved. State parks attempt to balance the goals of providing a place to recreate with those of preservation and management of significant natural or cultural resources.¹

Local parks (city, county), on the other hand, are primarily user oriented with the user being the key criterion. Recreation is the primary goal as opposed to preservation of the resource. Local parks serve a large number of visitors close to home, generally for a brief period of time, on a daily basis.

Private parks and recreation areas also see the user as the key criterion but for the purpose of making a profit. Private parks such as theme parks, campgrounds, ski resorts, etc., serve a large number of visitors with a focus of interest usually on a small amount of land. Many private parks are seasonal in nature, which is appealing to the owner or manager. The types of activities offered have an effect on profitability.

¹Missouri's first state park, Big Spring, was later recognized as being of national significance. Big Spring, Alley Spring, and Round Spring State Parks were transferred to the National Park Service and now make up a portion of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways.

THE MISSION OF THE MISSOURI STATE PARK SYSTEM

Missouri's state parks provide a place for people to recreate, while offering solitude, fresh air, and a place to exercise and enjoy themselves. In Donald M. Knudson's book Outdoor Recreation, he states that a person who lives 70 years will spend the equivalent of 27 years in leisure. This fact places great importance on the value of recreation, as it is an integral part of a person's life.

The Missouri state park system also functions to preserve areas that best exemplify the natural heritage of the state. These natural heritage features include relatively spacious areas of outstanding scenic or wilderness character often containing distinct, recognizable landscape or land form features and associated biological and geological elements. Landscape stewardship objectives concentrate on maintaining or restoring the distinct natural communities of plants and animals that occurred prior to European settlement. These communities are preserved to enhance the park visitor enjoyment and knowledge of the state's varied natural open spaces, provide for recreational activities compatible with the protection of natural resources, and further advance their scientific study.

The system also provides the finest examples of Missouri's cultural heritage. These historic sites include mills, covered bridges, homes, and more. Though they vary greatly, their purpose is similar: to provide visitors with information about the people who helped to shape our country and our state.

Parks require many things in order to function properly. Physical resources, such as land and water, set the stage for what will occur. Many facets of the physical resources determine the types of activities that will occur and the types of facilities that will be developed. Soil types, vegetation, drainage, and size of the area are all important considerations. In most instances, activities encouraged in a state park are inspired by the natural character or features of the

park. Uses must be appropriate to the setting. These uses also must be controlled to limit the impact on the environment. These factors play a major role in the carrying capacity. Carrying capacity is the ability of the physical resource to withstand use yet remain productive without major damage. Damage affects not only the physical resource, but also the recreation experience.

"To define a sound policy on the preservation of open spaces is not a simple task. It is a very complex one. It involves sound policies and planning, skill in public relations and exposition of our aims, as well as alertness to existing trends. A very real danger of continued overcrowding and too intensive use of areas is the inevitable destruction of the very values that make the land desirable for recreational use. There is the constant problem of balancing the preservation of natural conditions with the provision of facilities for public use in keeping with the highest values of park lands. Obviously parks are intended for human enjoyment, but there is always the danger of development, which will promote overuse of passing the point of diminishing returns, so that the satisfactions sought by many are lost to all because of excess in development and use. The fact that a park is popular is no good reason for developing it beyond its carrying capacity. Many a great landscape carries in its beauty the seeds of its own destruction."

-Newton Drury, Former Director
National Park Service

Parks are generally operated by governments because they are seen as a service to be offered to the public just as fire and police protection are. While in recent years there has been a call for parks to generate more revenue due to budget reductions, most public parks do not make a profit. A park's profitability is not good criteria with which to

evaluate its worth to a park system. Although revenue generation should not be the goal of a park system, it is an indirect benefit of some facilities that can contribute to an improved budget for parks and recreation services. If making money were a park system's objective, then private business should be providing this service because it can certainly do a better job of making a profit than a governmental agency.

PURPOSE OF MISSOURI STATE PARK SYSTEM MANAGEMENT

A clear definition of purpose is vital for success; it provides the foundation, the direction, and the milestone for all management efforts. The Missouri state park system serves people in one or all of three ways:

- 1) by preserving, protecting, and interpreting natural features of unique or exceptional scenic or scientific value for this generation and generations to come;
- 2) by preserving, protecting and interpreting historical and cultural landmarks of importance;
- 3) by providing opportunities for safe and enjoyable outdoor recreation.

Since areas within the Missouri state park system are not suitable for serving all people equally well in the above ways, state parks, for management purposes, are stratified into one of the following categories: natural landscapes; historical, cultural, or archaeological sites; and recreational areas. These three strata are necessary because the physical developments, resource use, and resource management should vary according to each area's dominant values and purpose(s). This helps avoid confusion by park visitors because of people's misconceptions that all areas should provide the same recreational facilities regardless of whether an area is natural, historical, or recreational.

Further, the statement of purpose guides the agency through its planning, development, and operations effort to define specific objectives and goals for park management. Some of these management goals include:

- ensuring that all services, whether supplied by concessions or park staff, adhere to standards that provide a quality park experience²
- encourage visitor use and enjoyment
- maintain visitor safety and protection
- provide maintenance of necessary public facilities, properly located, to help visitors better enjoy parks
- encourage use of parks for scientific research
- accurately measure present and potential capacity of each park to accommodate rising visitor use
- make back country wilderness areas accessible to visitors and encourage their enjoyment areas on their own terms
- enable visitors to appreciate and understand the historical/natural significance of state parks and historic sites through a variety of interpretive activities

²The purpose of concessions is not to raise revenue for the concessionaire or the park system, but only to provide needed services to the public. Missouri State Planning Board, Summary Park Plan (Jefferson City, Missouri: Missouri State Planning Board, 1938).

- assure a balanced relationship between preservation of park resources and visitor needs through conceptual and master planning
- establish explicit resource stewardship plans to manage and preserve for their highest purpose identified natural areas, rare and endangered species, wild areas, geologic sites, special landscapes, historic and prehistoric sites, buildings, and cultural objects.

NOTABLE GAPS IN THE MISSOURI STATE PARK SYSTEM

RECREATION GAPS

According to the state statute that created and guides the Missouri state park system, a state park is "any land, site or object primarily of recreational value or of cultural value because of its scenic, historic, prehistoric, archaeologic, scientific, or other distinctive characteristics or natural features." This statement is key to understanding the role of the state park system in Missouri. Unlike many other recreation providers who focus on creating recreational opportunities through development, the state park system has been directed to focus on the character of the land. The recreation activities that take place and all facility development should be inspired by the natural features of the landscape. The statute dictates that the uniqueness of the land be the basic consideration for selecting a state park site.

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is useful in determining the number of facilities needed because it uses a standard approach based on population. The SCORP does not, however, identify resource gaps. Identifying voids based on geographic distribution of parks is also of limited value because if the land resource does not exist to satisfy a particular need, the need cannot be met.

Conversely, if a significant resource does occur near an existing state park, it should not be rejected because of this association. It is also apparent from the visitation at existing state and national parks in Missouri that people are willing to drive long distances to utilize an area with significant natural qualities.

The criteria for selecting a state park site for recreation use must be based on the land and the potential for providing amenities that will allow the visitor to enjoy that land. State parks should have statewide appeal and not be established or developed to solve local recreation problems. While there is no standard size for a state park, it should be large enough to be self-sustaining. There should be sufficient acreage to protect the physical qualities of the site while also providing space for outdoor recreation and visitor needs. The size of a site will also depend on surrounding land use. If there are adjacent public lands that are compatible to state park use, acreage needed may be smaller than if lands are privately owned. In general, state parks should be large acreages of land with outstanding scenic or natural qualities, which allow extensive opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Considering these criteria, there is no true scientific approach to identifying recreation gaps in the state park system. Therefore, described below are perceived recreation voids in the state park system based on a combination of geographic distribution, public use of and interest in traditional state park activities, and an awareness of existing significant land not presently in the system. Many of the areas identified to fill the recreation void also may be identified to fill a natural landscape void in the state park system, thus providing a multiplicity of uses.

Additional state parks or major additions to existing state parks should be made to the system as follows:

Two of the state's most significant natural features are the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, the big rivers that historically played a major role in the exploration and settlement of this nation. Although tamed by dikes, levees and dams, these two rivers nonetheless still exhibit significant scenic and natural characteristics due to the sheer size of the rivers and the associated flood plain and the height of adjoining bluffs. In order for citizens of this state to experience and more fully appreciate these two natural assets, acquisition of significant tracts of riverscape land are recommended in the following areas:

- a) Mississippi River, between the towns of Clarksville and Hannibal

Steep hillsides rising above the river valley provide some of the most outstanding vistas of the "father of waters" as well as associated islands and flood plains.

- b) Missouri River, between the towns of Portland and Hermann

Sheer limestone bluffs, forested islands, and timbered hillsides combine to make this portion of the Missouri River valley not only unique, but truly scenic. This area provides one of the few remaining locations where one can visualize what Lewis and Clark may have seen.

c) Bryant Creek/North Fork River Area

This area of the state is notable because of its rugged Ozark character, scenic features, and high quality stream resources. It would be appealing to campers, hikers, canoeists, fishermen, picnickers, and other traditional state park users. Parks that focus on stream resources are the most popular in the state park system and provide recreation opportunities of statewide interest.

d) Gasconade River

Large areas of rugged and sparsely developed land that meet the criteria for consideration as a state park still exist along the upper and middle reaches of the Gasconade. High bluffs and cliff faces line the meandering banks of the river, providing a scenic float opportunity, while wooded hills and valleys suit a variety of other traditional state park activities. The proximity of Interstate 44 to much of the Gasconade would provide a park within several hours distance of two major population centers--St. Louis and Springfield.

e) Osage River

The Osage River area is known for its high bluffs and scenery. Geologic formations abound including caves, springs, and a natural bridge. The area is common to hardwood forests covering rolling hills and deep hollows. The river is becoming an increasingly important recreation resource for river-oriented activities including boating, canoeing, fishing, and swimming. Portions of the locks used to navigate barges are still in place, providing an opportunity to interpret a major aspect in the development

of our state river travel. The Missouri Constitution mandates that the Capitol city be located within 40 miles of the mouth of the Osage to ensure accessibility by the majority (in 1821) of the state's population. A large acreage along the Osage would allow a state park that could provide for such recreation activities as camping, hiking, picnicking, fishing, swimming, and boating.

f) Ozark Wilderness Park

Today there is no place to see or experience the original Ozarks as it existed prior to the influence of European man approximately 200 years ago. The goal is to acquire an expansive park where the original landscape would be restored and a functioning ecosystem could sustain native animal populations. Public use of the area would focus on wilderness activities, i.e., extended backpacking trips, horse packing trips, outward bound type programs, hike-in fishing and environmental education programs.

g) Long Distance Trails

As the popularity of rail-to-trail conversions grows throughout the state and nation, the Department of Natural Resources can expect to receive more and more requests for assistance in securing and development of abandoned rights-of-way for trail purposes. Because the resources of the department are limited, it is important that the department establish some criteria for acceptance of new routes into the state park system. The department must take the approach of providing trails where other entities or agencies can not do so. City and county park departments and special interest groups must take the responsibility for local projects and the department must focus on the projects that

are beyond the scope of local authorities and truly of statewide significance. To be considered for acceptance into the state park system the following criteria must be met:

There Should Be A Statewide Demand For Trails -

This demand should be demonstrated through the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan or other statewide studies.

The Abandonment Should Be Of Statewide Significance -

It should possess notable scenic qualities that are influenced by natural and cultural features, the landscape, and surrounding development.

It Should Be Of Significant Length

The abandonment must be of significant length, generally 50 miles. Abandonments may be less than 50 miles if they connect with other existing or proposed state trails, national trails, or state and federal recreation properties, or if they possess outstanding natural or cultural features.

The Abandonment Should Be in Good Physical Condition

Bridges should be in place, ballast should be present, and no major environmental hazards should exist.

This list is not meant to be a complete listing of all proposed acquisitions. It will change as often as the recreation needs of society change. It also may change as we learn more about Missouri's people and landscapes. There are some areas in public or private ownership that may meet state park criteria but, because they already serve the public, acquisition would not be sought. However, if these areas were threatened, acquisition should be considered.

NATURAL HISTORY GAPS

Since Missouri's state park system requires tax monies for acquisition, development, and operation, those areas selected for inclusion in a park system should be the "best" representatives and the most suitable for the intended purpose. The park's resources should be properly preserved and interpreted. In this context, a second, equally important mission of the Missouri state park system is:

"To preserve and interpret the finest examples
of Missouri's natural landscapes."

Natural heritage features include distinctive characteristic landscapes, outstanding scenic areas, geological points of interest, and unusual sites for natural communities.

Missouri's state park system currently consists of superlative examples of major landscape types including the state's best tallgrass prairie landscape at Prairie State Park, last virgin remnant of Bootheel bottom land forest at Big Oak Tree State Park, massive granite boulders at Elephant Rocks State Park, the underground landscape of Onondaga Cave State Park, St. Francois Mountain scenery at Sam A. Baker State Park, and the pine forests and sandstone canyons at Hawn State Park. Millions of park visitors are drawn annually to the natural and scenic attractions of these parks.

Discussion of Themes

A complete, integrated state park system should include the best remaining examples of the state's landscapes that contain qualities and characteristics that can be readily distinguished by the park visitor through interpretation, and their experience with the natural setting.

Areas of natural heritage significance can generally be defined and classified by the use of natural themes or categories of natural phenomena, and land form regions. This approach is a scientific one; however, equally important is the need to assess the public interest in scenically attractive areas. For example, free-flowing streams are extremely popular for a variety of recreational uses. People are magnetically attracted to portions of streams that retain natural scenic qualities. The Ozarks contain river systems that dissect the Salem Plateau, a region sharing essentially distinct vegetation and geology, regardless of watersheds. However, each major watershed contains water resources and associated natural/scenic features that attract thousands of people for a variety of river-related recreation. Examples should be acquired in every major river system. A completed state park system will contain examples of landscapes that portray the state's themes and regions. This system is modeled after that used by the National Park Service's Natural History Theme Study.

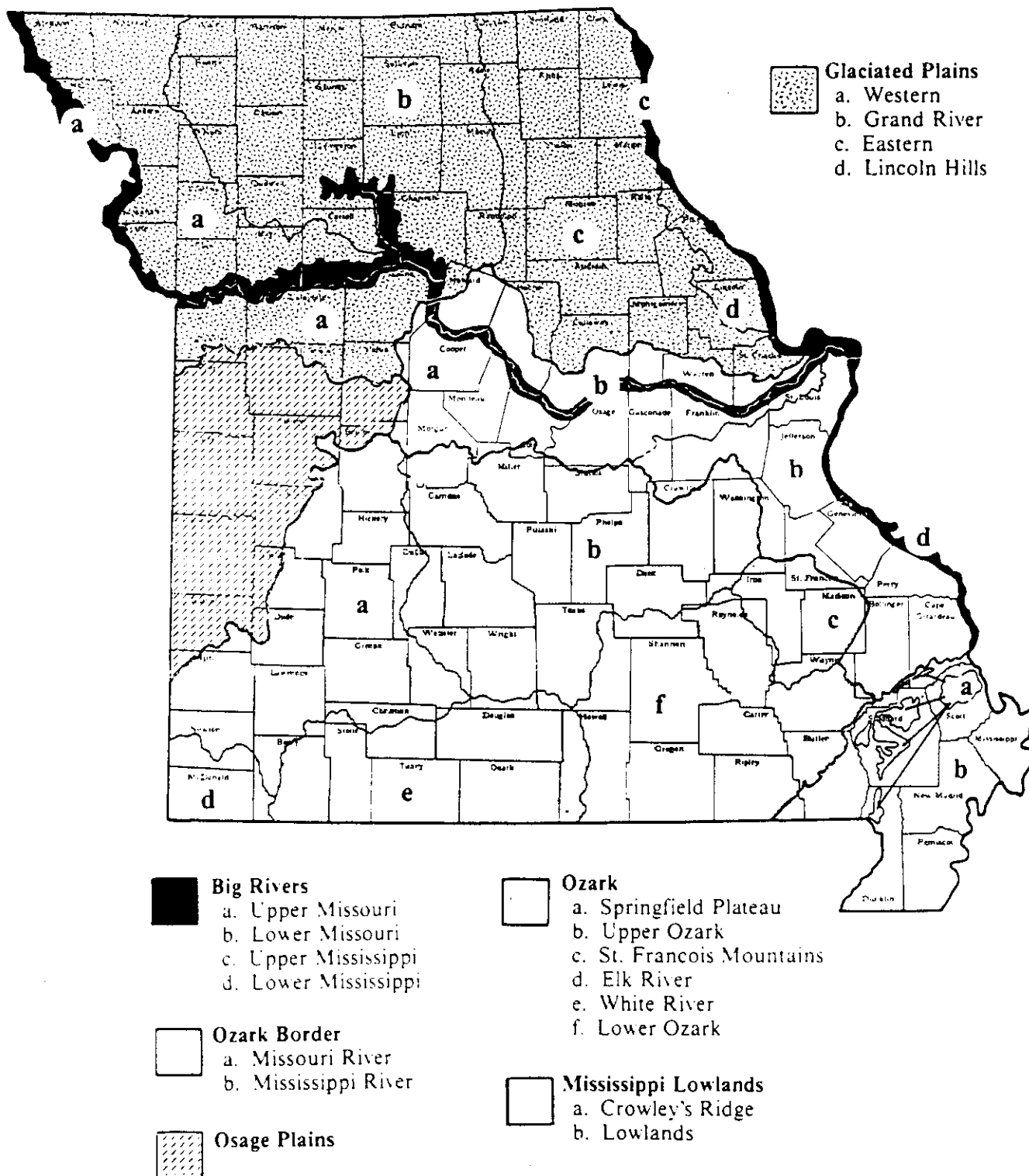
Missouri's Natural Regions: The Natural Divisions of Missouri

Missouri's landscape features tend to be regionally oriented, thereby providing an opportunity to divide the state into natural regions. These natural regions are based on The Natural Divisions of Missouri (Thom and Wilson, 1980), which divides the state into six distinct natural divisions and 19 sections (Figure 1). Each natural division and section is distinguished on the basis of differences in geology, soils, topography, past climatic events, and differences in flora and fauna.

Missouri's Natural History Themes

Missouri's natural history themes include categories of recognizable natural landscapes, processes, or phenomena of the state. Major themes vary throughout their range. The distinctions become significant from one natural division or section to another. For example, the forest at

Figure 1: The Natural Divisions of Missouri and Their Sections



Roaring River State Park in the White River Hills Section is significantly different from the forest at Sam A. Baker State Park in the St. Francois Mountain Section. The Missouri state park system should include representation of as many major themes as possible in each major region, or natural division and section in the state. Natural history theme categories that were used to determine the principal theme for each state park or where appropriate, historic site, are listed as follows. Appendix "B" lists principal themes as exemplified in the state park system.

Major Natural Theme Categories of Missouri

Land Forms:

caves
work of glaciers
(glacial till)
wind-deposited hills
sandstone formations
limestone formations
dolomite formations
igneous formations
chert hills
sand hills
entrenched meanders
active meanders
karst features
mountains
lowlands
riverscapes
plains
plateaus
escarpments
dissected hills

Terrestrial Ecosystems:

upland unglaciated deciduous forest
upland glaciated deciduous forest
flatwoods
bottom land deciduous forest
coniferous forest
(mixed oak-pine)
savanna
upland unglaciated prairie
upland glaciated prairie
bottom land prairie
loess hill prairie
glade
cliff
swamp
marsh
fens

Aquatic Ecosystems:

spring and spring branch
lake
marsh
large rivers - all watersheds
small rivers - select
watersheds
stream - as part of land form
theme gap
subterranean stream
natural pond

Geologic Features:

shut-ins
elephant rocks
sinkhole
natural bridge
stream piracy
shelter cave
karst window
waterfall
cliff
metamorphic rock
earthquake features
pinnacles

Popular or Noted Landscape Areas in Missouri

Glacial Plains
Loess Hills
Missouri River Hills
Salt River Hills
Lincoln Hills
Burlington Escarpment
Osage Plains
Osage River Hills
Gasconade River Hills
Pike Run Hills
The Ozarks
Northern Ozarks
Southern Ozarks
Salem Plateau
Springfield Plateau

White River Hills
St. Francois Mountains
Crowley's Ridge
The Lowlands
Missouri River
Mississippi River
* Elk River Hills
The LaMotte Basin
The Grand Prairie
Osage Prairie
Glaciated Prairie
The Flatwoods
Taum Sauk Mountain
(highest point in state)

*Funding was appropriated in Fiscal Year '93 for acquisition of land in this area.

Criteria For Determining Themes
and What Constitutes A Significant State Park Landscape

Criteria #1. Statewide Significance

For the park landscape to be of statewide significance in both evaluating existing representation and for acquiring new state parks filling gaps, the land should possess the following qualities:

- a) Principal features and distinctive characteristics of that natural region representing geological and natural processes, and restorable natural vegetation of high integrity,
- b) Sufficient acreage to satisfy the landscape mission in relationship to the cultural and recreational mission; park visitors are afforded facilities for safe enjoyable recreation and interpretation, including the opportunity to see quality scenery and representative examples of the regions' natural history.
- c) The landscape design and selection process should afford protection to restore and/or maintain a healthy functioning ecosystem and watershed quality; acreage figures are given for park gaps where appropriate.

Criteria #2. Regional Representation

A new state park should provide as much representation of characteristic themes in a natural division or section where no state park presently exists. Current gaps include:

- a) Crowley's Ridge - 3,000 acres of forest where a small stream tributary cuts through dissected ridges and joins the Mississippi Lowlands. This is a region of scientifically distinct flora and fauna.
- b) Lower Missouri River Section--Portland Area - 2,000 acres embracing abrupt scenic transition between Missouri River bluffs and flood plain. Themes would include nearly extirpated bottom land forest, sloughs, and high cliffs.
- c) Upper Mississippi River Section near Clarksville - 2,000 acres to include riverscape of scenic bluffs and forest.
- d) Upper Mississippi River Section near St. Charles - 5,000 acres of wetland landscape associated with the confluence of Cuivre and Mississippi rivers.

Criteria #3. Natural Theme Representation

Significant natural history themes depicting Missouri's landscapes are still lacking in several of the state's distinctive natural divisions or sections. Current gaps include:

- a) Northern Missouri Prairie--Glaciated Plains - Several possible sites may still exist worthy of consideration and will need active restoration.

- b) Greer Spring--Lower Ozark Section - Missouri's most pristine cold water spring and associated valley spring run, which is the main source of water entering the Eleven Point Scenic River.
- c) Northern Missouri Forest--Glaciated Plains - A region of dwindling forest resources, northern Missouri state parks presently protect fragmented areas of forest. Ideally, a large area should be designated of at least 3,000 acres and located in the upper Grand River or a river tributary to the Missouri River close to the Kansas City area.
- d) Loess Hills--Western Section of the Glaciated Plains - A distinctive region of loess mounds representing the culmination of the glacial period. It is scientifically recognized for its concentration of rare and endangered Great Plains Flora. A 1,000-acre tract would be suitable.
- e) White River Glades--White River Section in southwest Missouri - A unique landscape region distinguished for its glades and associated biota. Valued scientifically at a national scale, this scenic area attracts millions of tourists annually to area lakes and recreational developments. It is possible to lease area of 2,000 acres from U. S. Forest Service in glade region near Hercules Glade Wilderness, thereby assuring scenic quality of surrounding forest-glade areas.
- f) Gasconade River--north central Ozarks - Missouri's longest intact river at over 200 miles in length, the Gasconade contains incredible scenery, cliffs, caves, springs, and forests. A 3,000-acre tract located on a stream or river tributary would be ideal.

- g) Bryant Creek--south central Ozarks - This beautiful stream dissects limestone-dolomite cedar clad hills, and flows southward into Lake Taneycomo. Area features include cliffs, spring seeps, rock barrens, narrow valleys, shrub forests, and associated stream recreation. Area of at least 3,000 acres would be suitable.
- h) Crevice Cave--Mississippi River Section - Missouri's longest cave at 28.20 miles, it is also ranked eighth longest in the nation (NSS News, January 1985). It could be developed as an outstanding interpretive tour cave situated just three miles from Interstate 55.

Prioritizing Acquisitions

Those areas in which the statewide significant resource is threatened with irretrievable loss should be considered for priority acquisition. For example, there is only one area that contains 1,000 acres of high integrity northern Missouri glaciated prairie and is the last remaining example of tallgrass prairie that once covered over 6 million acres of northern Missouri.

Based on threats to significant state park resources not yet represented in the state park system, the following priority areas are listed:

- 1) Northern Missouri Prairie
- 2) Crowley's Ridge
- 3) Northern Missouri Forest

CULTURAL/HISTORIC RESOURCE GAPS

Chapter Nine of the proposed Missouri State Park Plan of 1977 stated that the goal of Missouri's system of state historic sites was to "preserve and interpret the heritage of Missouri" by accurately depicting "the broad sweep of our state's history, from its earliest days to the present." Implied in this statement was the idea that, not only must each site exemplify some significant aspect of the state's history, but that an integrated system of interrelated and complementary sites must somehow provide an accurate and panoramic representation of Missouri's heritage. The aim of planners at that time was to acquire and develop a representative group of sites, creating a system that would be "balanced" in terms of geography, chronology, and historical themes.

During the past decade, seven new sites have been acquired. These new sites have improved the balance of the system by providing opportunities to interpret events and periods, especially in the 20th century, that were not represented by sites owned before 1977. However, the ideal of a totally representative and balanced system of historic sites has not yet been achieved. The goal put forward in 1977 remains a valid goal for today, and for the future.

Decision-making Criteria:

Achievement of this objective will involve numerous and complex decisions over a period of many years. These decisions will depend upon informed and intelligent assessments of the value and significance of individual historic properties proposed for acquisition in addition to an underlying comprehension of the strengths, weaknesses, and basic

texture of the entire system of historic sites. In all such decisions, the following factors must be evaluated:

1. significance of the proposed historic property
2. themes in Missouri history that the property represents
3. chronological associations of the property
4. geographical location of the property

All four of these factors are interrelated. In any one individual decision, all the factors should be considered, but one of the factors may be of overriding importance. This is particularly true of significance, and in the case of a property of overwhelming statewide importance, the factors of theme, chronology, and geography may be of lesser consequence.

Likewise, in addition to occasionally standing alone, some aspects of significance seem to operate in the role of modifiers, pairing with each of the other three concepts in turn, and it is the evaluation of these three paired factors for each proposed site that will lead to final decisions about acquisition.

Conversely, although significance approaches the status of a sine qua non, it may nevertheless become highly desirable to acquire a property of lesser significance but which is within a thematic context, chronological period, or geographical area that is not presently represented in the system.

Evaluation Methodology:

The following plan is proposed for evaluating acquisitions on the basis of significance, theme, chronology, and geography:

1. Significance

Based upon the established criteria for the listing of properties on the National Register of Historic Places, it is proposed that:

To be considered for acquisition as a state historic site, a property must have significance in the history, archaeology, or culture of the state or nation in one or more of the following areas:

- a) in association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history; or
- b) in association with the lives of persons significant in the past; or
- c) as an embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; as a representation of the work of a master; as the possessor of high artistic values; or as a representation of a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- d) as a site that has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Sites meeting one or more of the criteria for significance would only be considered for acquisition if they also retained a satisfactory degree of integrity. In other words, no historic property should be approved for acquisition unless it retains sufficient original material and/or characteristics to convey a demonstrable sense of history. This requirement might conceivably be waived in the case of a site of extremely great significance in Missouri's heritage. Conversely, a site possessing enormous integrity or outstanding physical survival of historic building fabric might be selected for inclusion even though more general thematic, chronological, or geographical values would not otherwise suggest state ownership.

In general, moved structures, commemorative properties, and sites with significance dating from less than 50 years ago would not be considered for acquisition, unless documentation can be produced to indicate transcendent statewide importance.

2. Themes

The academic study of history is currently divided into several fields. These include such areas as economic history, political history, social history, military history and intellectual or cultural history.

Within these categories fall various themes of historical inquiry. Economic history would include the study of agriculture, mining, manufacturing, transportation, wealth, poverty, business, and labor. Political history would embrace the study of parties, interest groups, leaders, reform movements, and conflicts. Social history encompasses the themes of ethnicity, urban society, rural society, communities, families, gender relationships, population, and settlement patterns. Intellectual history includes the areas of science, philosophy, literature, art, religion, folklore, and popular culture.

By defining these general themes in terms of specific times and places, the program can come up with specific themes for interpretation within a system of historic sites. For example, beginning with the broad general theme of agriculture, staff can generate the specific topic of "Cotton Production in the Missouri Bootheel" or "Hemp and Tobacco Production in Little Dixie Before the Civil War." The broad themes of history have little meaning outside the context of time and place.

To illustrate this evaluation process a step further, once the thematic structure is in place, each theme can be matched with data from the inventory (National Register/State Data Base) or other sources suggesting what properties may be available to represent a particular theme. Appendix "C" provides an example of this stage of the process with potential properties matched with two hypothetical themes. The next logical step in the process would be to evaluate these potential sites in regard to the other three factors: significance, chronology, and geography.

Obviously, the development of a thematic framework for this decision-making model remains as the next major task to be accomplished. Many attempts to do this have been made before but none have been totally satisfactory. Appendix "D" is an example of a thematic framework originally developed to guide preparation of the history exhibits in the Missouri State Museum. It covers the entire scope of Missouri history, but not quite from the standpoint of property ownership. It will, however, serve as the point of departure for development of a new thematic matrix for site acquisition.

3. Chronology

In many ways this is a more objective and quantifiable factor than significance or theme, but a degree of subjectivity remains. An underlying assumption must be made, in this case, that no one period of time is inherently more significant than any other period of time.

Catastrophic events such as the Civil War tend to confer a disproportionate aura of importance upon certain years and eras. However, recent historical scholarship has tended toward the position that peaceful epochs, quiet trends, and social and familial relationships are equally worthy of study and interpretation, and may reveal significant truths about our past, our present, and our cultural heritage. The goal of our system, therefore, should be to provide opportunities for meaningful interpretation of all periods in Missouri's history.

With this goal in mind, the straightforward approach to decision-making involves knowledge of the time periods represented by sites now in our system and the future acquisition of sites associated with those time periods that are currently under-represented. The following list identifies historic sites now included in the system and the period of interpretation associated with each site:

<u>Name of Site</u>	<u>Period of Interpretation</u>
Illinois Indian Village	1600-1682
Boone's Lick	1805-1833
Felix Valle	1820-1850
First State Capitol	1821-1826
Mark Twain Birthplace	1825-1847, 1835-1900
Arrow Rock	1820-1900
Jefferson Landing	1830-1860
Nathan Boone Home	1837-1856
Gov. Dunklin's Grave	1790-1844
Sappington Cemetery	1840-1870
Hunter-Dawson Home	1855-1880
Battle of Lexington	1853-1865
Watkins Woolen Mill	1850-1880
Gen. John J. Pershing Boyhood Home	1860-1882
Fort Davidson	1860-1870
Battle of Carthage	1861
Locust Creek Covered Bridge	1868-1914
Union Covered Bridge	1870-1880
Bollinger Mill	1870-1880
Sandy Creek Covered Bridge	1870-1880
Jewell Cemetery	1870-1890
Harry S Truman Birthplace	1880-1890
Dillard Mill	1904-1930
Towosahgy	Mississippian
Thomas Hart Benton Home	1939-1975
Scott Joplin Home	1900-1910

Missouri Mines	1904-1972
Deutschheim	1830-1880
Osage Village	1600-1725
Confederate Memorial	1850-1867, 1889-1954
Battle of Athens	1840-1870

Graphic representation of the years covered by these sites and their periods of interpretation (Figure 2) indicates a high degree of concentration in the mid-19th century period between 1830 and 1880, with a special emphasis on the Civil War years. The late 19th and early 20th century period of progressivism and social change is scarcely represented in the system. Other important periods that are under-represented include the early settlement period (from the late 18th century to the time of statehood) and the 20th century, which includes such hugely significant events as the Great Depression and the First World War. (This statement assumes that the system will not routinely include sites less than 50 years old). In planning for expansion of the system, special consideration should be given to sites that offer possibilities for interpreting these periods and events.

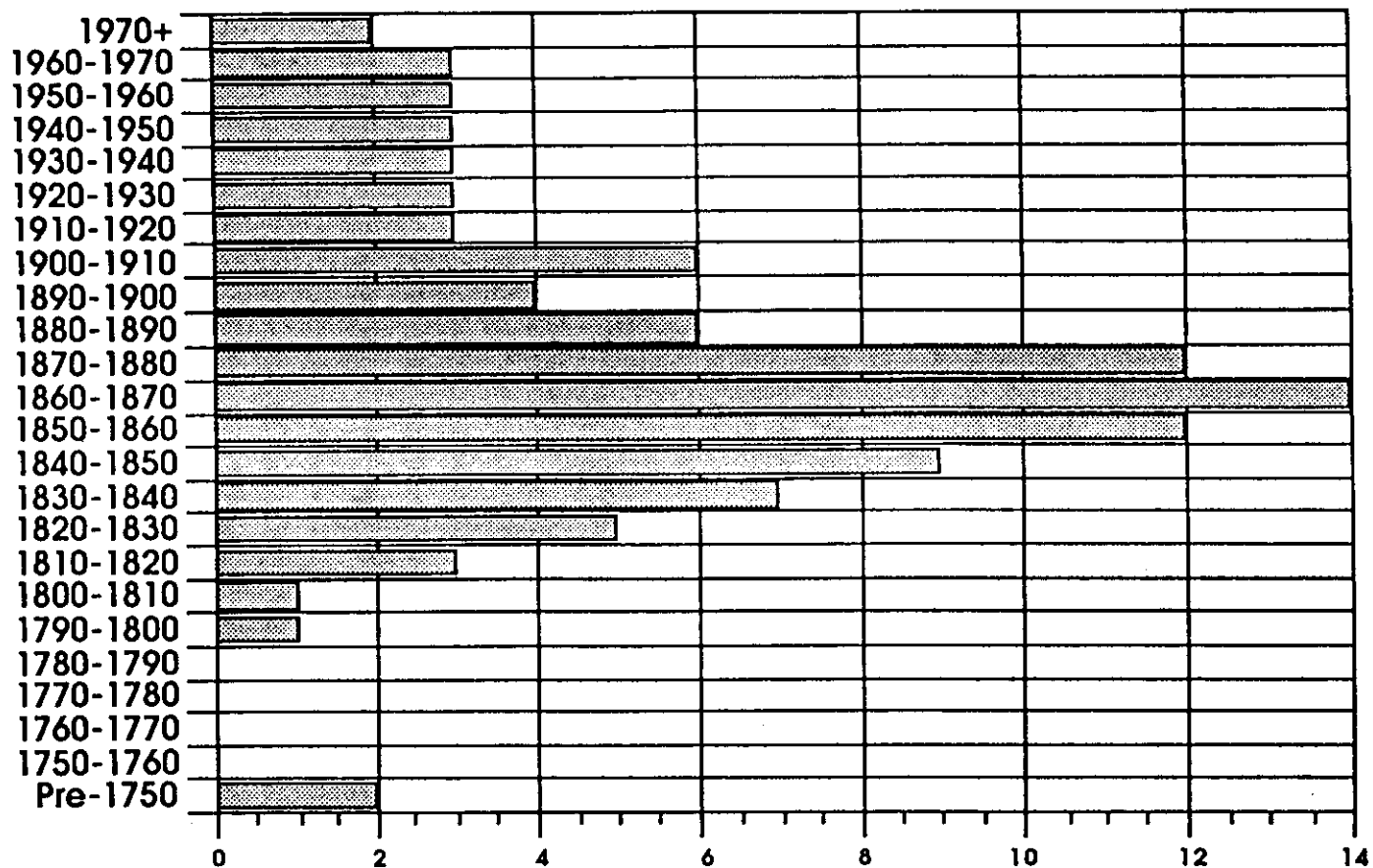
4. Geography

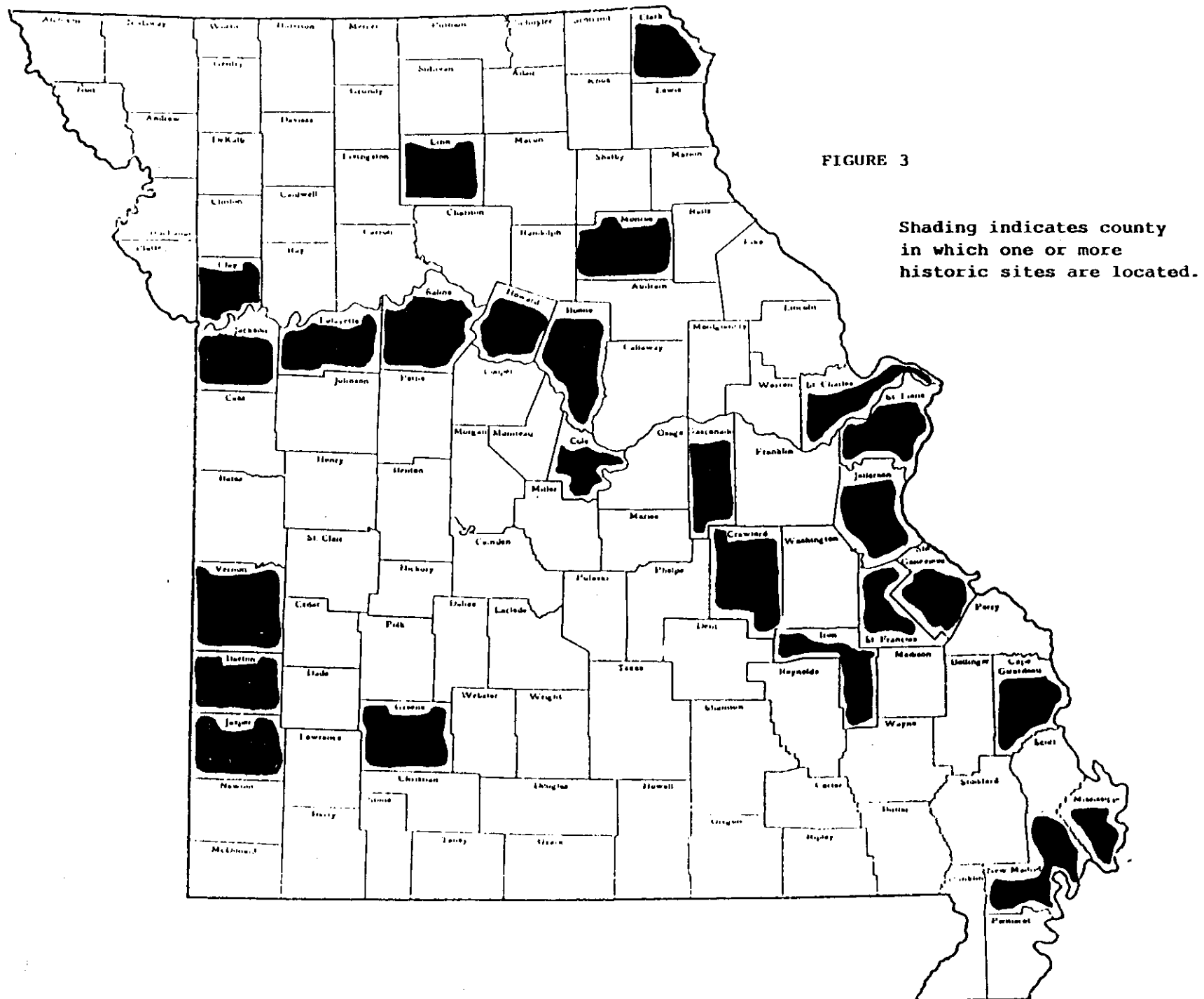
Geographers have proposed various schemes for dividing Missouri into cultural and geographical regions. Further study is required before the department can feel comfortable in adopting any of these schemes in toto. For the present, the department proposes to use the county as the primary geographic unit in the state. One benefit of this is convenience in that National Register listings and the department's own statewide inventory of historic properties are arranged by county. On the attached map (Figure 3), the counties that are shaded are those in which state historic sites are presently located.

It is clear from the map (Figure 3) that northwestern and south central Missouri are presently unrepresented in our state system. Our position in this matter is that the distribution of state-owned historic sites should be relatively uniform since no particular region has a monopoly on history. In planning for the growth of the system, a reasonable attempt should be made to acquire historic properties in those areas that are currently barren of historic sites.

FIGURE 2

Number of sites providing interpretation in specific decades





Evaluative Exercise

As an experiment in the use of this process at its current state of development, staff compiled a sample list of properties that would be eligible for acquisition, utilizing the four evaluative criteria. The universe of sites evaluated was confined to only those suggested by the staff for this exercise, and without reference to the much larger inventory data base.

The results of this brief test are included in Appendix "E," along with some remarks as to how the properties on the list relate to the evaluative criteria.

Unresolved Issues

1. Subjectivity will remain as an issue in this process. It is essentially non-scientific and the decisions made will always represent the informed opinion of staff members, the academic community and others. The development of themes, chronological period concepts, and the evaluations of individual properties will always generate a certain amount of conflicting opinion.
2. It seems obvious that the number of themes will expand considerably beyond the number of properties it will be possible for the system to own. Either a simplifying condensation of thematic context must be developed, or an intellectual rationale constructed to broaden the interpretive message and number of themes portrayed at each site.
3. It is apparent that many of the most outstanding sites that illustrate various themes are already in the ownership of other government agencies. The Jesse James Home and the Wilson's Creek Battlefield are good examples. Questions to be resolved include: should the department pursue ownership; interpret the same theme

elsewhere; or abandon the theme from the standpoint of our system? Similarly, property already owned by the system may illustrate a theme (for example, Civilian Conservation Corps architecture) to the extent that no further acquisition would be necessary, but the management designation is not as a historic site.

4. There will be a lack of consensus in the history field in general about what properties should be acquired. Unfortunately there is no "higher court" to resolve these issues, and already existing groups such as the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation are not ideally constituted to do so. Development of some outside and broadly based oversight group, professionally grounded in history, may eventually be necessary.
5. It does not seem to be possible to design a process that would automatically exclude properties from the system on a totally objective basis. That is, this decision-making mechanism will not provide a quick and easy defense of the system against the aggressive advocacy of a particular site by an organized pressure group. It will show that some sites are not very worthy candidates, although on somewhat subjective basis.

Unfortunately, being a process of historical conceptualization, it will not lend too much support to an argument that will, in the final analysis, tend to revolve around economics. That is, the process will certify many more potential sites as being acceptable for historical reasons than the system will be able to acquire for financial reasons.

Synoptic Overview

With the foregoing considerations in mind, the department proposes that any property accepted for inclusion in the state system of historic sites should pass the following tests:

- a) The property should possess significance and integrity, as defined in the discussion of significance in #1, above.
- b) The property should enhance the system by providing an opportunity for interpreting a particular period of history, with emphasis toward acquisitions that lend further balance to the overall system.
- c) The property should enhance the system by providing an opportunity for interpreting the history of a specific area or region of the state, or by strengthening our interpretation of the state as a whole.
- d) The value of the property should be clearly definable in terms of some specific and meaningful historical theme, again with emphasis being given to thematic concepts that are under-represented in the system.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX "A"

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources will conduct a series of public meetings to discuss criteria for expanding the state park and historic site system. Presentations will be made by staff followed by public input and questions. Please join us and give us your input. All meetings will begin at 7 p.m.

November 12, 1991, UMC-Memorial Union - Columbia
November 18, 1991, St. Joseph City Council Chambers
November 21, 1991, Cape Girardeau City Council Chambers
November 25, 1991, Springfield City Council Chambers
December 4, 1991, Maplewood City Council Chambers
December 9, 1991, Truman Library - Independence
December 10, 1991, Kirksville City Council Chambers

For more information, contact:
Missouri Department of Natural Resources at (314) 751-2479.



JOHN ASHCROFT
Governor

G. TRACY MEHAN III
Director

NEWS

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102 314-751-1010

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Contact: William Palmer
(314) 751-1010

DNR TO HOLD MEETINGS EXPLAINING PROPOSED STATE PARK EXPANSION PLAN

JEFFERSON CITY, MO., NOV. 4, 1991--The Missouri Department of Natural Resources will conduct meetings throughout the state to provide an explanation of the proposed state park system expansion plan.

The proposed state park expansion plan, developed by the department's Division of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, details the criteria used to identify gaps in the current state park and historic site system. Citizens are encouraged to attend the meetings and comment on the plan.

The meetings will be held during November and December in Columbia, St. Joseph, Cape Girardeau, Springfield, the St. Louis suburb of Maplewood, Independence, and Kirksville.

"It is important that Missourians know how the process of identifying specific needs in our state park system works," said department director Tracy Mehan. "Just as important is knowing how the filling of these gaps to preserve our natural and cultural resources and to provide recreational opportunities fulfills the mission of the Missouri state park system."

The public meetings will be held at the following locations:

University of Missouri-Columbia, Memorial Union
Nov. 12, 7 p.m.

St. Joseph City Council Chambers
Nov. 18, 7 p.m.

Cape Girardeau City Council Chambers
Nov. 21, 7 p.m.

Springfield City Council Chambers
Nov. 25, 7 p.m.

Maplewood City Council Chambers
Dec. 4, 7 p.m.

Independence Truman Library
Dec. 9, 7 p.m.

Kirksville City Council Chambers
Dec. 10, 7 p.m.



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MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
P.O. BOX 176 JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65101
(314)751-2479
PUBLIC MEETING
NOVEMBER 25, 1991
SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

MEETING PURPOSE: To gather public input on criteria to be used for future expansion of the state park and historic site system.

- 7:00 p.m. I. Welcome
Dalton Wright, Missouri State Park Advisory Board
- 7:15 p.m. II. Introductory Remarks
G. Tracy Mehan III, Director Department of Natural Resources
William E. Farrand, Deputy Director, Division of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
- 7:30 p.m. III. "Expanding For The Future" slide program
- 7:45 p.m. Break
- 8:00 p.m. IV. Public Comment -
- 9:00 p.m. V. Where We Go From Here



STATE OF MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF PARKS, RECREATION, AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
P.O. Box 176 Jefferson City, MO 65102 314-751-2479

Dear Public Meeting Participant:

Enclosed you will find a Responsiveness Summary prepared following the public meeting you attended in November or December 1991. As you know, the meetings were conducted to gather public input and discuss criteria for expanding the state park and historic site system.

Hundreds of comments were received at the meetings and we have spent the last few months organizing them and preparing responses. All of these comments will be used in finalizing the Expansion Plan. We anticipate having it completed and ready for distribution in the next few months. If you would like a copy of the final document, please request a copy in writing to the above address.

I want to thank you for taking the time to attend the public meetings and provide the input we needed to guide us through this process.

Thank you, also, for your interest and support in Missouri's State Parks and Historic Sites.

Sincerely,

DIVISION OF PARKS, RECREATION,
AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wayne E. Gross".

Wayne E. Gross
Director

WEG:mdl



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MISSOURI STATE PARK AND HISTORIC SITE SYSTEM EXPANSION PLAN RESPONSIVENESS SUMMARY

The Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, conducted seven public meetings throughout the state during the months of November and December 1991. The department was interested in receiving public input prior to finalizing a document prepared by the division entitled the "Missouri State Park and Historic Site System Expansion Plan."

The purpose of the document is to detail the mission of the system and distinguishes the system from other state agencies. It also discusses the criteria and methodology used in identifying gaps in the current system.

Public meetings were held in St. Louis, Kansas City, Springfield, Columbia, Cape Girardeau, Kirksville and St. Joseph. Presentations were made by staff members and included a slide-tape program entitled "Expanding for the Future." Public comments were gathered at each meeting by a facilitator recording input from the audience and also by written comments submitted on a comment card.

Every attempt has been made to respond to each comment received however, due to the large volume of comments received, some summarizing and combining of comments has occurred.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES STAFF INVOLVED IN THE PUBLIC MEETINGS:

G. Tracy Mehan
Department of Natural Resources Director
Wayne E. Gross
Division of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Director
William E. Farrand
Division of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Deputy Director
Booker H. Rucker
Director, Historic Sites Program
Paul Nelson
Director, Natural History Program
Glen Gessley
Chief, Planning Section
Mary Donze
Planner, Planning Section

GENERAL ISSUES FROM PUBLIC MEETINGS

The following is information collected during the public meeting process. The numbered items are comments received from the public, followed by a response from the department.

Due to the volume of comments received, they were divided into the following categories:

- Issues Directed to Mission
- Issues Directed to New State Parks
- Issues Directed to New Historic Sites
- Comments or Issues Not Related To Expansion Plan
- Funding
- Issues Related to Existing State Parks and Historic Sites
- Katy Trail Issues

Issues Directed to Mission

1. *The criteria as presented are sound and appropriate. They should be able to exclude as well as include areas to the system.*
2. *Very supportive of expanding.*
3. *Support low impact strategy for recreation such as the Ozark Trail.*
4. *Admirable approach to planning-great slide show.*
5. *Mission statement is superb.*

In general, the public agrees with the mission that guides the state park and historic site system. This mission is derived from the Missouri Constitution, Missouri statutes and the honored tradition of the state park system.

Issues Directed to New State Parks

6. *Acquire additional sites for natural and wilderness areas. When expansion of new areas occurs, the department should develop only for those recreation activities that are consistent with preservation of high quality environmental experiences. Avoid commercialization. Don't expand just to accommodate more people.*

The intent of the criteria for selecting a natural landscape theme park is that the area be large enough and of quality high enough in scenic, wild and natural integrity to allow for development of traditional public use facilities including campgrounds, picnic areas, etc. The priority is to select a given unique landscape yet unrepresented in the park system.

The type of development depends on, and is guided by, the uniqueness and type of landscape. For example, the current area known as Elk River being sought as a new park contains a wild and rugged 1,200-acre undeveloped area, which has the potential to have campgrounds developed along a portion of river. In this case, the landscape is suited to provide both facilities for traditional park uses and wilderness recreation.

7. *Develop more statewide trails.*

The department is involved in two statewide trail efforts at this time, the Ozark Trail and the Katy Trail. These are both ambitious projects that require much time and many resources. These commodities are of course limited. The department will continue to monitor their use and assess the need for additional trails of this type.

8. *Pursue additional rails-to-trails projects, i.e., Wabash Railroad.*

The department intends to review future railroad abandonments for potential trail use. If any are considered to be of statewide significance, according to prescribed criteria, acquisition, development and operation funds will be pursued through the normal budget process. However, funding for trail projects must compete with all other state park projects. To ensure future rails-to-trails projects, there must be a stable and sufficient source of funds for the state park system.

9. *Acquire additional wetlands for inclusion into the system, i.e., lower Missouri River.*

The current plan includes an area on the lower Missouri River known as the Portland site, which is well suited to wetland restoration. In addition, the department has acquired a 300-acre marsh near Big Lake State Park and is planning to restore natural flood cycles in wetlands at Pershing and Big Oak Tree state parks.

10. *Acquire additional sites along Mississippi River.*

In 1991, the department attempted to purchase a new state park at the mouth of the Salt River along the Mississippi River near Hannibal. The site was chosen as the most outstanding scenic and natural portion of the Ozark-like Lincoln Hills. Unfortunately, at this time, the owner is unwilling to sell. In 1992, the department has requested purchase of a statewide significant Indian village site in extreme northeast Missouri along the Des Moines River representing the first European/native American contact.

11. *Acquire a park in northern Missouri.*
Suggestions included: North Missouri prairie

loess bluff site in Northwest Missouri
area north of Kansas City

The department would like to include a north Missouri prairie, but there is only one qualifying site known, and it is not for sale at this time. The plan also includes loess hills in northwest Missouri north of Kansas City.

12. *Acquire a site in southeast Missouri for rock collecting.*

The mission of the state park system is to preserve, for posterity, unique natural and cultural features including geologic phenomenon. To allow collecting of rocks, as well as other objects, would quickly deplete the resource.

13. *Acquire more sites for recreation, especially camping.*

Camping is generally designed into any proposal to acquire new park landscapes. It will be considered when the resource is capable of accommodating campground development as long as there is a statewide need for additional camping opportunities. Currently, the department's major contribution to providing recreation is to complete the linkage of the Katy Trail State Park from St. Louis through Jefferson City to Boonville and Sedalia.

14. *Acquire more sites closer to urban population.*

The criteria prioritizes acquisition of parks depicting unique natural themes or yet unrepresented natural regions of the state. Some proposed sites may incidentally be located near urban areas. Since urban sites do not always possess natural features which are unrepresented in the park system, attention will be given to possible cultural resource based additions in urban areas.

15. *Acquire a park near Springfield; for quiet nature observation.*

Suggestions include: White River region.

Acquire more parks/historic sites in southwest Missouri.

Currently, the department is seeking legislative approval for the purchase of a scenic, natural landscape park along Big Sugar Creek in the Elk River Section of southwest Missouri. This site is situated approximately 70 miles southwest of Springfield. The plan also includes the inclusion of a White River glades state park east of Branson. Both sites, if acquired, would provide for quiet nature observation in wild portions of the park.

16. *Acquisition of corridors to connect natural landscapes.*

Acquisition of corridors, primarily for wildlife purposes, is not central to the mission of the state park and historic site system mission. We would, however, work with other agencies to accomplish this.

The recently announced threats study entitled "Challenge of the '90s-Our Threatened State Parks" points to the need to restore damaged or degraded park ecosystems. One major threat category included parks being too small to protect natural diversity. Future plans are underway to make parks larger to include protected watersheds, scenic areas, and unrepresented ecosystems for this purpose. An example includes the need to expand Prairie State Park. One major achievement included the acquisition of Taum Sauk Mountain State Park, which connected that park to the adjacent Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park resulting in a 7,000-plus-acre park.

17. *Acquire a state park in each forest ecosystem.*

Public perception about the need to protect forests has historically led to the early acquisition of numerous "forested" state parks including such greats as Trail of Tears, Big Oak Tree, Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial, and Cuivre River state parks. The plan addresses the need to concentrate efforts on acquiring the last remaining unrepresented ecosystems including forests, north Missouri prairie, loess hills and White River glades. The department will add to the plan the need to add a wetlands landscape at the mouth of the Cuivre River, which will include now rare and vanishing bottomland hardwoods forest.

18. *Acquire Crowley's Ridge.*

A park in the Crowley's Ridge Section is currently listed in the draft plan.

Issues Directed to New Historic Sites

The acquisition of historical property for inclusion in the state historic site system involves evaluating a proposed site against a prescribed set of criteria composed of three aspects: geography, chronology, and theme. The department acknowledges the incomplete nature of its present historic holdings, in that collectively the 30 sites cannot provide a full reflection of the entire state's heritage.

In fact, it is the purpose of the expansion plan to provide this evaluative mechanism that may be applied to specific sites as properties become available or as new sites are proposed by others for departmental acquisition. It follows that the task will not necessarily end since history stretches not only backward, but into the future as well. Historical viewpoint and scholarship also change, and for all of these reasons the need to evaluate, to reevaluate, and to acquire additional historic sites will be ongoing.

19. *Acquire additional historic sites in urban areas.*

The historic sites program has not specifically targeted acquisitions in urban areas as a specific theme. Certainly the potential acquisitions in urban areas are more numerous than in rural areas, but any potential site must be evaluated within the established criteria. In the past, acquisitions came principally by donation, and the likelihood of a donated site in an urban setting was much lower as many of these could be operated on a private basis. Therefore, urban sites are underrepresented at this time.

20. *Acquire historic site in St. Joseph.*

The historic sites program currently does not have a specific site targeted in the St. Joseph area. There are, however, a number of potential sites there. As these become available, they will be evaluated within the criteria for appropriateness to satisfy themes that may not be represented at present.

21. *Acquisition of site to represent 18th-century gap.*

We currently do have some sites that do include some 18th-century history, but were also acquired to satisfy additional themes. The occupation of the Missouri Indian (Utz) site in Van Meter State Park and the occupation of the Osage Indians at the Brown site (Osage Village State Historic Site) all contain both 17th and 18th century materials. Both of these are intimately connected with the Indian fur trade. We have already targeted other potential 18th century sites for acquisition that will fulfil other themes. Others will be evaluated as warranted based upon availability.

22. *Acquisition of site to represent 20th-century gap.*

This theme/period represents an incredibly complex part of the historical process, i.e. determining what will be significant in history in another 50 years. To that end, a famous person today may no longer be in a few years. Although this is true, we do have some 20th century sites within the system, e.g. the Thomas Hart Benton Home and Studio State Historic Site. We would prefer to consider sites from the earlier part of the century in order to determine if they have stood the test of time. Several sites (e.g. the Scott Joplin House State Historic Site and the General Pershing Boyhood Home State Historic Site), while not 20th century structures, represent personages and themes which gained notoriety in the 20th century. We will remain open to other similar opportunities.

23. *Acquisition of missile site in western Missouri.*

The staff has already begun consideration of such a site on the grounds that a one-time opportunity of acquisition may be at hand, and a preliminary evaluation seems positive in regard to balance in the three criteria areas.

24. *Acquisition of site to represent Platte Purchase theme.*

This is a possibility, but the theme could probably be added as an additional interpretive opportunity at an existing site. We often attempt to cover multiple themes at one facility for cost effectiveness. This is a theme that we have considered further interpreting at Weston Bend State Park.

25. *Acquisition of more prehistoric evidence.*

This is one area where the historic sites program has already recognized a deficiency, and a number of targeted acquisitions fall in this category. As these become available, they will be evaluated within the criteria for acquisition.

26. *Acquisition of French and native American contributions.*

We currently do interpret these themes at historic Indian sites within the system. At both Osage Village State Historic Site and at Van Meter State Park, these are the principal themes of the interpretation. In addition, one of the targeted acquisitions will help fill in gaps on both the historic Indian and French contact period. We remain interested in appropriate acquisitions from the French and Spanish Colonial periods as well.

27. *Acquisition of site around religious settlement.*

This is a consideration that has been suggested in the past. Certainly this is much more difficult as multiple properties generally have multiple owners, and acquisition of such a community in toto would be difficult at best. Potential targets would be very limited.

28. *Acquisition of site to represent female influence outside of domestic life.*

This topic is currently under consideration, and some sites have been suggested. Unfortunately, most of these are represented at 20th-century sites, and the difficulty of obtaining sites that will withstand the test of time is difficult as we have already indicated. The theme will remain under active consideration, with evaluations of actual acquisition targets as they become available.

29. *Acquisition of site representing music coming from Missouri, i.e., folk, country, bluegrass.*

This is a possibility that has not been fully explored in the past. It is difficult to target specific sites, but if available, they would be considered under the criteria for evaluation. At least one site has been considered in the past but is being operated on a private basis.

30. *Acquire St. Vincent Seminary in Cape Girardeau.*

This site, if available, can be evaluated within the criteria established. As a general case, the operation of historic religious structures with specific denominational connotations must be approached with care in regard to separation of church and state issues. Generally religious structures would not be acquisition targets unless broader historical concepts were involved, and a historical significance extending well beyond the interests of the denomination concerned. It should also be noted that with shrinking congregations in many areas, a great many religious structures are becoming potentially available. Evaluation and quality criteria will need rigorous application.

Comments Or Issues Not Related To Expansion Plan

31. *Department of Natural Resources should be concerned about access and transportation to state parks and historic sites, i.e., getting inner city kids to the sites.*

The department has several programs that serve children including those living in the inner city. Several state parks have group camps that allow outings lasting anywhere from one day to fourteen days in length depending upon the needs of the individual group sponsor. Park naturalists travel to schools to present programs, and school groups visit the visitor centers and nature centers available in many of the state parks.

32. *Try to work with adjacent landowners to see that they manage consistently with our land management goals.*

Personnel at individual facilities frequently contact neighboring landowners to talk with them about items of mutual concern, share with them the department's management goals for the park, and educate them on stewardship of their property.

33. *Continue to support Civil War marker program.*

The department initiated and will continue to support the Civil War Marker project through administration by its Historic Sites Program.

34. *Expansion is fine but don't neglect maintenance of existing parks, especially those in urban areas.*

Maintenance has, and will always be, a priority for the system whether it be a site located near an urban area or elsewhere. A substantial percentage of the department's resources are dedicated to maintenance and operating costs.

35. *Department of Natural Resources needs to take extra precaution when doing construction projects to prevent, i.e., siltation in streams, etc. . . .*

As a natural resource agency, we make every attempt to monitor construction projects as closely as possible to protect the resource. Many projects are completed by outside contractors, which makes this task more difficult. But we will continue to monitor as best we can.

36. *All-terrain vehicles should not be allowed in state parks. Confine use to appropriate areas.*

All-terrain vehicles are allowed in two existing state parks because the landscape has been previously disturbed by mining activities. These are Finger Lakes and St. Joe state parks. They are prohibited in all other state parks.

37. *Golf courses should not be allowed in state parks.
Golf courses should be developed in state parks.*

The department has plans for a golf course in conjunction with a resort facility at Mark Twain State Park. Current plans do not call for golf courses to be developed at any additional state park. This type of development is much better suited for a local and private park and recreation department.

Golf courses can normally be developed on landscapes that do not possess any specific natural or cultural resources. Golf courses, by nature, are not resource oriented and therefore have not been developed in the state park system. State parks, on the other hand, are established for the preservation of a statewide significant natural or cultural resource.

38. *Keep recreation for senior citizens and those with mobility problems in mind when developing.*

The department has every intention of fully complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) that came into effect January 1, 1992. This deals with all issues related to accessibility.

39. *Need more for kids to do in the parks.*

The Missouri state park system provides one of the strongest nature interpretive programs in the nation. Over 20 full-time and 65 seasonal naturalists are employed by the park system to provide a variety of outdoor interpretive and environmental programs including Junior Naturalist patches for children interested in nature education. Further, kids can enjoy and learn from the newly expanded visitor and nature centers found in many parks. Park visitors should be aware that the major focus in park settings and historic sites is the enjoyment of the outdoors. Playground equipment is also available in most park campgrounds and picnic areas.

40. *Investigate Forest Legacy Program being used in other states to aid in establishing corridors or protecting areas from deforestation.*

The Forest Legacy Program emerged from the 1990 Farm Bill. It called for Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York and Washington to create committees for guiding easement purchases and administration. This grew out of a need for large scale acquisition of easements to protect 26 million acres of forest in New York and New England from subdivisions and other threats. At present, there is no similar program for Missouri.

41. *Buffer zones should be established around urban parks to prevent encroachment.*

Zoning regulations exist in many urban areas that limit the uses that can be made of land adjoining parks and historic sites. The department supports zoning regulations that serve to buffer park resources and regularly participates with local agencies in the public review of zoning changes. The threats study identified the acquisition of lands as an answer to alleviate some threat to the state park system.

42. *Mission poses a contradiction: preservation vs. use; Carrying capacity should be established for each park. Need to educate public about this. Overcrowding is a problem in several parks.*

Although the mission appears to contradict itself on the surface, it actually does not. It is the responsibility of the Division of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation to provide a balance of preserving resources of statewide significance while providing for high quality outdoor recreation experiences.

Carrying capacity has been established for Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park. We will continue to monitor carrying capacity at other facilities and address problems as the need arises.

43. *Threats study and expansion plan should be used to convince legislature about the need to expand.*

The threats study and draft expansion plan have not only been distributed to the legislature but also to numerous other individuals. Both documents have spurred various articles on the issues. The department's Resource Review magazine has covered both topics as well. The department will continue to educate both the general public and the legislature on these issues.

44. *Involve campers in campground design.*

Although there is presently no formal process for campers to be involved in the design process, much input goes into campground projects. Field staff who meet campers on a daily basis provide much input into the design process. Likewise, many of our own staff are campers themselves. In many cases, concerns and comments received related to campground design are personal preferences and not universal standards.

45. *Need to continue to educate the public about the mission of the system.*

Educating the public is something that occurs on a daily basis usually more informally than formally. There have been several articles and other documents written on this very subject. The public meetings that you were a part of are also an excellent way to educate as well as gather input from the public. The nature/interpretive programs discussed in #40 are also an effective means of communicating with the public as well as Resource Review magazine.

46. *Expand existing parks but don't develop them.*

Expansion at existing parks occurs for various reasons: buffer, protection of the resource, viewshed protection, and opportunity for additional development. Many times acquiring additional property for development allows us to further protect the resource.

47. *Should consider resort development but should be oriented to the resource.*

Mark Twain State Park is the only park in the system presently identified for resort development. Although it will be funded, developed and operated primarily by a private contractor, the department will have full control over design and development. It is our intent that the contractor develops a high quality, professionally operated resort in keeping with the beautiful and natural surroundings of the park.

48. *Need more places to ride mountain bikes.*

There are over 200 miles of trail in the Missouri state park system presently open for mountain bicycle use. When the Katy Trail State Park is completed from Machens to Clinton, an additional 143 miles will be available. Mountain bike trails are also being considered at Long Branch and Stockton state parks. For a brochure on trails currently open for mountain bike use in the state park system, call 1-800-334-6946.

49. *Investigate other options to control lands adjacent to parks without acquiring them.*

The department has, in certain instances, acquired leases, easements, and use restrictions on property rather than full ownership. The department will continue to explore, where feasible, these types of approaches to land utilization or protection.

50. *Cooperative effort with other public and private agencies to do an open space plan.*

The department cooperates with numerous state, federal, local, and private land managing agencies to promote the concept of open space and the recreation opportunities afforded by such environments. The department acts as the coordinating agency for the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and works with numerous public and private agencies to address the outdoor recreation needs for the citizens of Missouri. Examples of projects include open space protection along the lower Meramec River by working with the Meramec River Recreation Association, acquisition of public use easements by the Ozark Trail as a member of the Ozark Trail Council, and protection of significant prairie remnants in southwest Missouri in conjunction with The Nature Conservancy. The department will continue its cooperative efforts on these and other open space projects on an individual basis until such time a comprehensive open space plan is deemed necessary.

51. *Strict enforcement of laws is important.*

The department has commissioned law enforcement personnel more commonly known as park rangers.

The primary responsibility of these employees is enforcement of laws relative to state parks and historic sites.

52. *PILT (Payment in lieu of taxes). Concern over PILT. Against PILT on existing park lands.*

Because of the current language of the park-and-soils sales tax, the Attorney General of Missouri has determined these funds cannot be used to make payments in lieu of taxes (PILT). The major source of

funding for the state park system is derived from the park-and-soils tax. The legislature is currently considering a joint resolution that would allow the public to decide whether PILT should be allowed.

53. *Increase controlled burns.*

As a result of the park's threats study, prescribed burns to restore healthy natural ecosystems are being expanded systemwide. Nature trails, brochures, a slide show and nature exhibits include information explaining the natural role of fire in park ecosystems and why they are important in preserving natural diversity.

54. *Poor highway signing, especially at night.*

The department works with the Missouri Highway and Transportation Department to provide signing on all major highways and accessing state parks and historic sites. There is no doubt that signing, particularly at night, could be improved in many areas. We are working to accomplish this task. We now have agreements that allow this type of installation if it is done in compliance with other transportation specifications. Our agency will continue to work toward effective signing of our facilities.

55. *Resource Review is excellent.*

We agree! This magazine is published by the department and covers issues related to natural resources. If you would like information on how to subscribe contact the Department of Natural Resources, Public Information Program, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102.

56. *Identify tree names along trails.*

Trees are generally identified through the use of brochures or guided nature walks. In the past, some parks have had identification signs placed near trees only to have them vandalized or stolen. Although the best means of securing a sign is to place it on the tree, we generally do not agree with this method as it often damages the tree and sends a message that we do not care about potential harm to the tree.

57. *Need for a greenbelt around Columbia.*

A project of this type is not central to the mission of the state park and historic site system. Two state parks in the area, Finger Lakes and Rock Bridge Memorial, would add to this concept, however, a project of this kind would be better suited for a local organization or agency.

58. *Use more energy efficient designs on buildings.*

On new building construction, the department attempts to utilize the most energy efficient design possible. Many buildings in the system, however, are quite old and difficult to modify for energy efficiency but every effort is made to do so where possible.

59. *Don't allow hunting in state parks.*

State parks were established by law as wildlife refuges where hunting is prohibited. The only hunting that has ever been allowed in state parks has been for wildlife management purposes only, such as the special deer hunts at Pershing and Knob Noster state parks.

Funding

60. *Department of Natural Resources needs to educate public re: current financing situation.*

Through meetings such as those held for the expansion plan, the department hopes to make citizens aware of our financial capabilities to operate and expand the state park system. There are a number of citizen organizations that have taken it upon themselves to understand the department's finances and to educate their members of the challenges we face.

61. *Improve communication with General Assembly to convince them to spend general revenue on parks.*

The department is attempting to expand the amount of financial information provided to members of the general assembly including the fact that there is no General Revenue in the budget for state parks.

62. *Sell an annual sticker to raise fees to support system.*

The possibility of establishing an entrance fee or sticker has been proposed on several occasions in the history of Missouri state parks. Due to the public opposition to this program, the idea has never been implemented. Revenues from such a system, however, would in itself not be sufficient to support state park operations, development and expansion.

63. *Work toward reauthorization of sales tax.*

The present tax program will expire in November 1998. The department will educate the public on the need to reinstate an earmarked funding mechanism for the system well in advance of this expiration date.

64. *Set up matching grant program with local agencies.
Funding for local parks needed.*

Without expanded authority and funds, the current monies available to the system can only be used on the state parks and historic sites. There certainly does seem to be a need for additional monies in local recreation programs, since a number of federal fund sources have been reduced or eliminated. The department will consider such a program at the time of sales tax renewal.

65. *Need for more autonomy in deciding how park funds are applied. Too much legislative involvement.*

The question of autonomy is both a political and a philosophical debate, which should be carried out between citizens and their elected officials.

66. *Funding for historic sites should be sought outside the parks-and-soils sales tax.*

There are a number of state owned historic sites, which are, by law, a part of the state park system and thus are afforded the benefit of the parks sales tax. There are a number of other important historic resources, however, in the state that could benefit by an improved level of support whether its source is federal, state, or local. This too will be an issue reviewed at the time of sales tax renewal.

Issues Related To Existing State Parks and Historic Sites

67. *Watkins Mill State Park: campground needs work.*

In 1989, approximately \$300,000 was spent in the campground doing road paving, site renovation (new picnic tables, grills, etc.), additional electric sites were added and drainage problems corrected.

68. *Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park: Concern over proposed Highway 109 relocation and its impact on the park.*

The department has been monitoring the proposed Highway 109 relocation issue. We will express our concern if this project negatively impacts state parks in the area.

69. *Washington State Park: Concern over landfill proposed adjacent to the park.*

We, too, are concerned about the proposed landfill and its potential impact on the park. The Division of Environmental Quality, within the Department of Natural Resources, reviews any proposed landfills in order to make sure they comply with all environmental rules, regulations and laws; we will continue to monitor this proposal.

70. *Rock Bridge Memorial State Park: concern over protection of Rock Quarry Road.*

In 1989 the Boone County Commission received a petition requesting that Rock Quarry Road be vacated. The department supported the closing of the road by both written and verbal comments presented at the public hearing. It was the decision of the commission, at that time, that the road not be vacated.

71. *Finger Lakes State Park: it should remain an ORV park ONLY.*

The mission of Finger Lakes State Park is to focus on the park's rugged terrain. While the primary purpose is for ORV riding, the park has never been dedicated entirely to this activity. Areas left undisturbed from the mining operation provide for such opportunities as swimming, canoeing, fishing, picnicking and day use. As in other state parks, we attempt to provide multiple recreation activities where the resource allows.

72. *Ha Ha Tonka State Park: Boardwalks are being overdone.*

Prior to boardwalk construction at Ha Ha Tonka State Park, hillsides were scarred by numerous undesignated paths, vegetation was trampled, and erosion problems were severe; --so severe that the Spring Trail had to be closed. After much deliberation and discussion of other options, which included severely limiting the number of people allowed to use the area, it was decided to build boardwalks. Boardwalks are not our trails of choice but sometimes they are necessary to protect our resources and to deal with the large number of people we try to serve.

73. *Thousand Hills State Park: Expand to include the "cabins area."*

Any historical property available for acquisition by the department is carefully considered before becoming a state historic site. Geography, chronology and theme are three basic factors that help determine if a property should become a state historic site. The Cabins Historic District near Novinger, is located in an area where the department already has control of Thousand Hills State Park. However, the site is not close enough to permit direct connection within one boundary. The district's primary period of interest and name dates from the late 1820s and 1830s. Unfortunately, most of the historic structures in the district are later than this period. Early settlement in northern Missouri is a theme already depicted at one of the existing state historic sites.

As a theme, Fort Clark, constructed during the Black Hawk War and located within the district, is unrepresented in the site system and is of interest. However, by itself, this fact would not suggest its immediate acquisition as a state historic site, since none of the existing structures represent any surviving elements of the fort. Detailed consideration should be given to the question, but initial judgement suggests the property not be acquired by the department.

Katy Trail Issues

74. *Investigate the possibility of joint ventures along trail for historic interpretation.*

Interpretation of the natural and cultural features along the Katy Trail will be a priority of the department once all trail construction is complete. The department welcomes any cooperation from interested parties with this effort.

75. *Extend the trail to Kansas City.*

The department recently acquired an additional 35 miles of right-of-way, which will allow the trail to be extended from Sedalia to Clinton. The department will continue to monitor railroad abandonments in the state. As lines are abandoned that connect with the Katy Trail, they will be evaluated. A connection with the Kansas City area will be a high priority.

76. *Need camping facilities along trail.*

The department, in general, owns only 100 foot of right-of-way for the Katy Trail. The exceptions are usually at station sites where the department normally develops trail heads. Since the primary focus of this linear park is for hiking and biking, we would like to see the private sector develop amenities such as campgrounds. However, if the demand is not met, in the future we will consider developments of this type.

77. *Railroad depot in Sedalia - was the first railhead for the longhorn cattle drives from Texas. Opportunity for interpretation of this at the depot.*

The Katy depot in Sedalia is a significant historic structure and the department intends to preserve it for the future. Restoration of this structure and subsequent development of interpretive displays will be completed as funds become available. At this time, the department's priority lies with developing and opening the entire Katy Trail for public use. No decision has been made at this time as to all the future uses of the depot, however, some interpretation would undoubtedly be included at the depot.

APPENDIX "B"

Missouri state parks, listed by natural division, which contain significant natural history theme representation. Those parks given an (A) for the theme satisfy the criteria of significance. Notable features are ranked as (B). The principal theme for which the park is recognized is noted by an asterisk.

GLACIATED PLAINS NATURAL DIVISION

Western Section

Weston Bend State Park

Landform: *Wind-deposited hills. Loess-dominated topography on scenic bluffs overlooking the Missouri River (B).

Grand River Section

Crowder State Park

Landform: *Work of glaciers, dissected hills (A). The Big Thompson River and its tributaries have carved through a mantle of glacial drift.

Terrestrial Ecosystems: Northern Missouri upland deciduous forest of notable significance (B).

Pershing State Park

Landform: *Active meandering stream (A). Locust Creek contains over four miles of active meandering stream and associated features: oxbow lakes, cut-off meander, overflows, marsh.

Terrestrial Ecosystems: *Bottom land prairie (A); bottom land forest (A); stream (A). The park contains one of the state's best remaining examples of bottom land prairie with significant acreage of bottom land forest, oxbow lakes, and marsh. Many plants typical of northern states with several rare or endangered animals such as the bald eagle, American Bittern, and Eastern massasauga.

Thousand Hills State Park

Landform: *Work of glaciers (B); dissected hills (B).

Terrestrial Ecosystem: Northern Missouri upland deciduous forest (B). The park contains notable acreage of second growth upland forest with species found in northern climates such as big tooth aspen and interrupted fern.

Eastern Section

Mark Twain State Park

Landform: Work of glaciers (B); dissected hills (Salt River Hills) (B).

Terrestrial Ecosystems: *Northern Missouri upland deciduous forest (A). Although the park is divided by Mark Twain Lake, several areas of the park contain significant maturing deciduous forests typical of northern Missouri.

Lincoln Hills Section

Cuivre River State Park

Landform: Work of glaciers (A); dissected hills (A); karst (B); limestone formations (A). The park contains Ozarklike topography because of the erosional down cutting of Cuivre River, Big Sugar Creek tributary, and its proximity to the *Lincoln Hills. Contains numerous glacial erratics, high limestone cliffs, and sinkholes.

Terrestrial Ecosystems: Northern Missouri upland deciduous forest (A). Exemplary examples of deciduous forest with species transitional between northern forests and Ozarks to the south. Many Ozark species such as the marbled salamander, four-toed salamander, fence lizard, broad-headed skink, and flowering dogwood are at the northern limit of their range.

OZARK BORDER NATURAL DIVISION

Missouri River Section

Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park

Landform: Dissected hills (A). The park contains loess-capped chert and limestone hills with tributaries immediately draining into the Missouri River.

Terrestrial Ecosystems: Upland deciduous forest (A). Contains upland deciduous forest dominated by sugar maple, white and red oak over deep loess soil, which is intermixed with drier Ozark forest typically found further south. (*Missouri River Hills Forest.)

Graham Cave State Park

Landform: *Escarpment (B); dissected hills (B); work of glaciers (B). This park is situated at the very edge of the glacial limits marked by an abrupt change between the glacial till plain just north of the park and the variety of exposed, dissected geologic bedrock in the park. The park is centered on an escarpment created by the exposure of variable rock formations that characterize the *Ozark Border Natural Division. Of special significance is the outcrop of St. Peter sandstone in which the shelter cave is formed.

Terrestrial Ecosystem: Glade (B); upland deciduous forest (B). Though not dominating any portion of the landscape, this park contains the system's only examples of St. Peter's sandstone and Joachim limestone glades. The small acreage of forests over sandstone and limestone bedrock contain many Ozark plants that are at the extreme northern limit of their range.

Rock Bridge Memorial State Park

Landform: Caves (A); karst features (A); limestone formations (A). *Devil's Icebox is the state's fourth longest cave with over seven miles of passageway. The cave is part of a classic karst landscape complex including a natural bridge, collapsed cave chasm, karst window, and numerous sinkholes. Numerous fossils comprise the Burlington-Keokuk limestone bedrock.

Terrestrial Ecosystem: Subterranean stream (A); upland deciduous forest (B). A large subterranean stream flows from Devil's Icebox Cave that is believed to drain over 20 square miles of land surface. The cave is biologically significant as a maternity site for the federally endangered gray bat and the pink planaria, an aquatic invertebrate found nowhere else in the world.

Mississippi River Section

Hawn State Park

Landform: *Sandstone formations (LaMotte Basin) (A); entrenched meanders (A). The park is situated in the LaMotte sandstone basin, a unique landform region restricted to a geologic area surrounding the park. Landform features include sheltered sandstone canyons, prominent sandstone knobs, and extensive outcrops of sandstone bedrock. Several high-quality streams contain streambeds entrenched or deeply etched into solid sandstone bedrock showing marked evidence of land uplifts. The park is noted among state geologists for the only known naturally exposed metamorphic rock.

Terrestrial Ecosystems: *Coniferous forest (A); cliff (A). Characteristic of the LaMotte Basin, the park contains extensive stands of native shortleaf pine and many relict, rare, and endangered plants. Park visitors are particularly attracted to the spring flowering of wild azalea.

St. Francois State Park

Landform: *Dissected hills (Pike Run Hills) (A); dolomite formations (A). Known historically as the Pike Run Hills, the topography is deeply dissected by tributaries of and adjacent to the Big River. The underlying dolomitic bedrock contains unusual hydrologic phenomenon by creating numerous spring seeps where bedrock is exposed in deep valleys.

Terrestrial Ecosystems: Upland deciduous forest (A); fens (A). The park's scenic dissected hills are covered in dry upland oak-hickory forest typical of Ozark vegetation. Of special statewide distinction are the numerous spring seep openings called "fens" found along Coonville Creek. These fens provide a large amount of the water that feeds the creek, a high-quality Ozark stream containing many species of fish. The fens contain several rare and endangered plants.

Washington State Park

Landform: Dissected hills (A); *dolomite formations (A). The park consists of dolomite rock formations with chert overburdens, which are carved into deep valleys, cliffs, and a broad flood plain by the Big River and its tributaries.

Terrestrial Ecosystems: Upland deciduous forest (A); cliff (B); glade (B). The park is characterized by a mosaic of forests, glades, and stratified dolomitic bedrock that is exposed along step-like ledges at mid and lower formations. Especially significant is one of the state's largest examples of rich, old growth mixed deciduous forest along north-facing cliff slopes of the Big River. This slope is distinguished as one of the state's showiest spring wildflower displays. The distinctive dolomitic glades contain the park system's largest populations of eastern collared lizards.

Castlewood State Park

Landform: Entrenched meanders (B); dissected hills (B). The parks dissected hills, cliffs, and flood plain are directly attributed to the carving forces of the Meramec River, which has cut through deep layers of cherty dolomite and limestone. The park is located on the lower Meramec River drainage, close to both the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. Protected valleys contain deep loess-deposited soils while south- and west-facing slopes contain exposed deposits of chert and dolomite.

Aquatic Ecosystems: Large river (A). The semi-clear, swift-flowing waters of the Meramec River are home to a variety of distinctive aquatic organisms, especially several crayfish and naiads that are found nowhere else in the world.

BIG RIVERS NATURAL DIVISION

Trail of Tears State Park

Landform: *Riverscape (A); dissected hills (B). The enormous width of our nation's largest river, the Mississippi, contained in an expansive flood plain starkly contrasts with the high river bluffs and adjacent river hills scenery. The small tributary drainages along the Mississippi River create a distinct series of deep river hill ravines alternating between towering limestone cliffs.

Terrestrial Ecosystems: Upland deciduous forest (A). Trail of Tears State Park contains the state's best example of *eastern deciduous mesophytic forest, American beech, tulip poplar, sugar maple, magnolia, and a rich assemblage of ferns and wildflowers characterize this forest type more typical of the Appalachian Mountains.

Geologic Features: Cliff (A). The limestone cliffs lining the Mississippi River are among the most impressive found in southeastern Missouri. These cliffs provide scenic vistas of the riverscape.

Battle of Athens State Historic Site

Landform: *Riverscape (B). The gentle-flowing muddy waters of the Des Moines River and its flood plain to the east subtly contrasts with the shallowly dissected forested river hills on the west riverbank.

Terrestrial Ecosystems: Upland deciduous forest (B). This historic site contains a natural area distinguished for its forested cove ravines containing a rich mixture of deciduous forest species, especially noteworthy populations of snow trillium.

Van Meter State Park

Landform: Riverscape (A); *wind-deposited hills (A). An area of high dissected hilly land rises abruptly along the border of the Missouri River flood plain. This landform consists of sharp ridges, deep valleys, and ravines typical of eroded, wind-deposited loess hills. The park topography is distinguished as among the most prominent in the west-central part of the state. These steep, 250 foot high hills border remnants of bottom land forest and marsh once typical of the adjoining Missouri River flood plain.

Terrestrial Ecosystems: Upland deciduous forest (A). The deep ravines and valleys of these loess-capped limestone hills and bluffs contain rich, mesic mixed hardwood forests; northern red oak, sugar maple, black walnut, and paw paw characterize the forest.

Big Lake State Park

Aquatic Ecosystem: *Lake (B). Big Lake is the largest natural lake in Missouri, representing a relict old Missouri River oxbow. Margins of the lake contain small remnant assemblages of plant species characteristic of large river flood plains. Migrating birds frequent the park, many which visit from nearby Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge.

MISSISSIPPI LOWLANDS NATURAL DIVISION

Big Oak Tree State Park

Landform: *Lowland (A). The park is situated in a flat, expansive alluvial plain formed by the past action of numerous rivers. The surrounding landscape contains little topographic relief with no appreciable natural rises in land seen from horizon to horizon. Floodwaters often (and still do) cover the land in late winter or spring.

Terrestrial Ecosystems: *Bottomland deciduous forest (A); swamp (B). This park contains Missouri's best remaining example of virgin bottomland hardwoods forest, with many state and national champion trees of enormous size and over 150 species of birds. For example, the world's largest persimmon tree is found in Big Oak, measuring 135+ feet high and nearly 10 feet in circumference. Many species are distinctive of southern coastal plains, reaching their northern range limits here.

OSAGE PLAINS NATURAL DIVISION

Prairie State Park

Landform: Plains (A). This park is situated in the unglaciated plains of southwest Missouri, characterized by gently rolling land and soils derived from shale and sandstone.

Terrestrial Ecosystem: *Upland unglaciated prairie (A). With less than 50,000 acres now remaining of a total of 13.5 million acres of prairie originally found in Missouri, Prairie State Park contains the state's best remaining example of unglaciated tallgrass prairie landscape. Distinctive prairie animals include the American bison, bullsnake, dickcissel, grasshopper sparrow, prairie chicken, nesting northern harriers (an endangered hawk) and upland sandpipers.

OZARK NATURAL DIVISION

Upper Ozark Section

Lake of the Ozarks State Park

Landforms: Dissected hills (A); plateaus (A). The park exhibits classic features of the Salem Plateau, a landscape characterized by an elevated, deeply dissected plain. This part of the upper Ozarks is known as the *Osage River Hills, which resulted when the Osage River carved into the plateau. Caves, bluffs, fault zones and joint fractures, are associated with the Gasconade, Gunter, and Eminence dolomites and sandstones that underlie the park.

Terrestrial Ecosystems: Upland deciduous forest (A). The park preserves the largest acreage of typical upper Ozark oak-hickory forest. The state's largest natural nesting sites for cliff swallows are found in the park as well as populations of the scarlet snake, a state endangered species. Several caves are critical habitat for federally endangered bats.

Geologic Features: Cave (A); sinkhole plugs (A). Ozark Caverns contains unique speleothems including the Angel's Shower, superlative examples of helictites, and natural rimstone dams. Several massive sandstone outcrops with vertical rock faces over 30-40 feet high are the remnants of ancient filled sinkholes.

Ha Ha Tonka State Park

Landform: *Karst features (A). The park contains an extraordinary concentration of geologic karst phenomenon associated with the collapse of a huge cavern complex, including a deep chasm lined by 250 foot cliffs, large cliff-lined sinkholes, a natural bridge, large spring, and caves. This assemblage of karst features is being considered for national natural landmark designation.

Terrestrial Ecosystems: *Savanna (A); cave (B). Much of the park landscape contains an open parklike transition between fire resistant trees and prairie vegetation known as savanna. The largest barren openings contain some of the state's largest displays of the rare yellow coneflower plus numerous other prairie wildflowers such as downy gentian, royal catchfly, and blue aster. Deep sinkholes contain rare relict plants such as Goldie's fern and spinulose shield fern. River Cave is critical habitat for the federally endangered gray bat.

Bennett Spring State Park

Aquatic Ecosystems: *Spring and spring branch (A). Fresh, crystal clear, cold-water springs help to distinguish the Missouri Ozarks as one of the most significant karst regions of the world. Bennett Spring, the park's namesake, contains excellent assemblages of cold-water spring-adapted biota and will be the main interpretive theme of the new exhibits in the park interpretive center.

Meramec State Park

Landform: Dissected hills (A); cave (A). This park is the gateway between the Ozark Border and Upper Ozarks, the beginning of that portion of the Meramec River watershed known as the *Upper Meramec Basin. Reaching riverscape proportions, the Meramec River has carved a landscape of deeply dissected hills and valleys, large impressive dolomite cliffs, and a broadly entrenched flood plain. This dissected landscape sharply contrasts with the level, undissected surface of the Salem Plateau seen just north of the park. The park contains the system's greatest number of caves (over 30).

Aquatic Ecosystems: Small river (A). *The Meramec River and its over 25 miles of state administered easement, is the park system's premiere scenic and natural riverscape. The river's aquatic environs are distinguished for its numerous endemic mussels, crayfishes, fish, and other aquatic species.

Onondaga Cave State Park

Landform: *Cave (A). The park system's showcase underground cave landscape containing spectacular cave formations and massive cave rooms. It is a national natural landmark.

LOWER OZARK SECTION

Montauk State Park

Landform: Entrenched meander (A); dissected hills (A); dolomite. The Current River has carved deep into the surrounding Salem Plateau leaving impressive, scenic pine-carved bluffs, deep valleys, and classic exposures of Gasconade dolomite capped by deep chert residuum.

Terrestrial Ecosystems: Upland deciduous forest (A). The dry, cherty, and sandy upland hills and ridges contain superlative stands of mixed oak and pine, particularly the park system's best populations of pure old-growth scarlet oak.

Aquatic Ecosystems: Spring and spring branch. *Montauk Spring is the headwaters to the Current River.

Grand Gulf State Park

Landform: *Karst features (A). Paralleling Ha Ha Tonka State Park, Grand Gulf is the state's best example of classic karst phenomenon featuring a half-mile-long deep narrow collapsed cave chasm, huge natural bridge, and deep karst window. Surface water drains over 20 square miles of land and eventually exits at Mammoth Springs, Arkansas, seven miles away. It is designated as a national natural landmark.

Lake Wappapello State Park

Landform: Dissected hills (B). The park is situated in a region of dissected cherty hills bordering the contact with the Mississippi Lowlands.

Terrestrial Ecosystems: Upland deciduous forest (A). Situated near the Mississippi Lowlands, the dry chert hills and valleys contain a mixture of oaks and Appalachian species such as tulip poplar and American beech. Superb stands of southern red oak are found on the park.

White River Section

Roaring River State Park

Landform: Dissected hills (A); *plateau (A). Roaring River Spring and its tributaries have carved extremely steep, deep valleys along the edge of the Springfield Plateau. This sharp landform contrast between the plateau and dissected White River Hills forms an escarpment, which is exactly where the park is situated. Few other regions of the state contain such a diversity of variously exposed geologic formations and the park is distinguished as a classic model for this phenomenon.

Terrestrial Ecosystems: *Upland deciduous forest (A). The dry cherty hills, glades, and deep mesic limestone valleys contain many plant species that distinguish this region of the Ozarks from the rest. Several plants include such trees as the Ashe's juniper, state endangered chinquapin oak, and the yellow wood tree (proposed for federal listing). Many other biota typical of the southwest occur here including the roadrunner, armadillo, painted bunting, tarantula, and western tanager.

St. Francois Mountain Section

Sam A. Baker State Park

Landform: *Mountains (A); igneous rocks (A). With over 850 feet of relief, Mudlick Mountain is a classic example of a St. Francois Mountain dome. Distinctive features include igneous glades, rock glaciers, cliffs, and shut-ins.

Terrestrial Ecosystems: Upland deciduous forest (A). The park contains exemplary examples of old growth oak-hickory and oak-pine forests typical of igneous rock soils. This landscape significance is recognized by the park's distinction for the Natural Areas System's largest natural area, consideration as a national biosphere preserve, and future consideration for national natural landmark status.

Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park

Landform: Igneous formations (A). The East Fork Black River has carved through a deep shut-ins gorge exposing a complex series of igneous rock types including granites, ash tuft flows, and rhyolites. Two distinct landscape forms sharply contrast in the park: a St. Francis Mountain dome--Proffit Mountain on the east side of the park, and the dissected Salem Plateau--the dissected chert hills on the west side of the park.

Terrestrial Ecosystems: Upland deciduous forest (A); glades (A). No other state park contains such a great variety of distinct natural terrestrial ecosystems. Some 17 of the 89 distinct natural communities occur here because of topographic relief, the variety of rock types, and abundance of aquatic habitats. Over 900 species of plants are found in the park including nine rare and endangered species and two plants found nowhere else in the state.

Geologic Features: *Shut-ins (A). Johnson's Shut-Ins is recognized and studied as the best classic example of a shut-ins gorge.

Elephant Rocks State Park

Geologic Features: *Elephant rocks (A). The best example of joint block weathering of igneous rock resulting in unusual massive granite boulders.

Taum Sauk Mountain State Park

Landform: *Mountains (A); igneous rocks (A); waterfall (A). At 1776 feet, Taum Sauk Mountain is the state's highest point. This igneous mountain dome is one of seven principle igneous domes embracing one of the state's most superlative scenic valleys and intact watersheds drained by Taum Sauk Creek. The valley is the state's deepest at over 1,000 feet. The state's highest waterfall at 132 feet, Mina Sauk Falls, is situated on the west flank of Taum Sauk Mountain. Other geologic phenomena include Devil's Toll Gate and Devil's Wall.

Terrestrial Ecosystems: Igneous savannas, woodlands and glades (A). The park contains the most superlative, highly diverse igneous glades, savannas and woodlands in the state. Botanists discovered a population of the federally-listed Mead's milkweed on a prairie-like oak pine glade/savanna complex following the first prescribed burn in 1990. Other prairie plants more typical of the Osage Plains prairies were found in the same location lending testimony to the theory that the Ozarks interior was once much more open than today.

Aquatic Ecosystem: Headwater stream draining St. Francois Mountains (A). Designated a State Outstanding Resource Water, the park protects nearly all of the watershed for Taum Sauk Creek.

APPENDIX "C"

EXAMPLE: THEME/SITE DATA MATCH

Colonial Period: Fortifications

Certain familiar names should appear on anyone's list of French and Spanish military fortifications. During the 18th century, French and Spanish soldiers built more than a dozen forts against Indians to the west, British to the north, and Americans east of the Mississippi River.

Included within the list should be the following:

Fort Orleans	Carroll County	ca. 1720-1726
Fort Don Carlos	St. Louis County	ca. 1768-1778
Blockhouse for Don Carlos	St. Charles County	ca. 1768-1778
Fort of the Osage (Carondelet)	Vernon County	ca. 1790-1802
Fort San Carlos	St. Louis County	ca. 1780
Fort at St. Charles	St. Charles County	ca. 1790s
Fort at Charette	Warren County	ca. 1790s
Fort at New Madrid	New Madrid County	ca. 1790s
Fort at Cape Girardeau	Cape Girardeau County	ca. 1790s
Fort at Ste. Genevieve	Ste. Genevieve County	ca. 1790s

The location of each fort remains unknown. Therefore, the possibility will continue to exist that someday one or more of these early structures will be discovered. The exact location of any fort on this list, if discovered, should be acquired, protected, and interpreted for public benefit as part of the state historic site program.

Americans constructed a second generation, so to speak, of early forts following the Louisiana Purchase. Included in this category would be all of the War of 1812 fortifications, both military/government works and neighborhood "forts" built by private citizens.

The number of forts built by local citizens for their own personal protection was fairly extensive and the subject has not been exhaustively researched, but the following list includes representative examples of these defensive structures:

Fort Zumwalt	St. Charles County	ca. 1812
Cooper's Fort	Howard County	ca. 1812
Pont Fort	St. Charles County	ca. 1812
Fort Kincaid	Howard County	ca. 1812
Fort Hempstead	Howard County	ca. 1812
Cos's Fort	Saline County	ca. 1812
Cote Sans Dessein (Roy's Fort)	Callaway County	ca. 1812

Government fortifications built during this Territorial Period that should be evaluated for acquisition as state historic sites include:

Fort Bellefontaine	St. Louis County	ca. 1805
Fort Osage	Jackson County	ca. 1808
Fort Howard	Lincoln County	ca. 1812
Portage des Sioux (Fort)	St. Charles County	ca. 1812

APPENDIX "D"

EXAMPLE: MISSOURI HISTORY -- THEMATIC MATRIX

I. Aboriginal Missouri

Paleo - Indians

Archaic Period (6000 - 1500 B.C.)

Woodland Period (1500 B.C. - 900 A.D.)

Mississippi Period (900 A.D. - 1500 A.D.)

Indians of History

- Osage
- Missouri
- transient tribes (Delaware, Shawnee, Sac and Fox)
- contact with European Man

II. Colonial Missouri

French Period (1673-1770)

- Marquette & Joliet
- voyageurs and coureurs de bois
- founding of first Missouri settlements
(Pierre Laclede Liguist)
- French life and culture

Spanish Period (1770-1804)

- Spanish governance
- influx of native Americans (Daniel Boone, Moses Austin)
- Revolutionary War

III. The Road to Statehood

Louisiana Purchase (1804)

- Thomas Jefferson
- Lewis & Clark Expedition (1804-1806)

Missouri Territory (1804-1820)

- Territorial government
- growth and expansion
- War of 1812 and Indian conflicts (Black Hawk)

Statehood (1820)

- demand for statehood and issues (e.g., slavery)
- Missouri Compromise
- writing of constitution, formation of government, choosing of capital and symbols of statehood
- Thomas Hart Benton

IV. Settling the Land

Fur Trade (Manuel Lisa)

American Settlement

- early pioneer life and economy
- landscape perception and change

Santa Fe Trail

Platte Purchase (1830) and Removal of Indians

Mormon Migration (1830-1839/Joseph Smith/Far West)

German Immigration and Settlement (1830-1860)

Mexican War (1846/Gen. Alexander Doniphan)

Regional Development

V. The Cruel Division

Prelude to War

- pre-war issues
- border conflict
- Dred Scott Decision

Civil War (1861-1865)

- battles and campaigns in Missouri
- major protagonists (Claibourne Jackson, Sterling Price, Francis P. Blair, Nathaniel Lyon, Hamilton Gamble)
- army life

Aftermath of War

- abolition of slavery (1865)
- effects of war on Missouri's land and people
- Ironclad Oath, Radical Republicans, and Constitution of 1865
- restoration of Democratic Party and Constitution of 1875
- "Reign of Terror" (KKK, Jesse James, et al.)

VI. Recovery and Progress

Populist Movement

Progressivism

- political reform
- Suffragette Movement

Social and Economic Development

Spanish-American War (1898)

Louisiana Purchase Exposition (1904)

VII. A New Century

Automobiles and Aeroplanes

World War I (Missouri's role/Gen. John J. Pershing)

Post-War Prosperity: The Roaring Twenties

- Charles Lindbergh ("Spirit of St. Louis," 1927)
- prohibition and organized crime
- Tom Pendergast

The Great Depression

- rural and urban scene
- New Deal/WPA, CCC, etc.

VIII. The Modern Era

Harry S Truman

- early years
- Senate
- Presidency (foreign affairs, WW II, Marshall Plan, Korean War)

World War II

Constitution of 1945

Post-War Society in Missouri

Technological Revolution

APPENDIX "E"

EXAMPLE: EVALUATIVE PROPERTY SELECTION PROCESS

The following list of properties does not constitute a recommendation for acquisition. It is only a sample listing of sites that seem to meet the four-fold test described previously. This list was developed by staff consensus, and arrived at by informal evaluation along lines described in the foregoing pages. It is not intended to be exhaustive of any of the four categories, and serves only as a demonstration of the process.

Geiger Archaeological Site
Moniteau County
Prehistoric - Late Archaic

Creve Coeur Archaeological Site
St. Louis County
Prehistoric - Middle Woodland

Mellor Archaeological Site
Cooper County
Prehistoric - Late Woodland

Campbell Archaeological Site
Pemiscott County
Proto- Historic- Mississippian

Gumbo Point Archaeological Site
Saline County
Historic - Missouri

Plattner Archaeological Site
Saline County
Historic - Little Osage

Fort Osage
Jackson County
1808

Prairie Park
Saline County
1843-1845

Neobo Archaeological Site Hill
Clay County
Prehistoric - Late Archaic

Linn Creek Archaeological Site
Clay County
Prehistoric - Middle Woodland

Meramec Spring Archaeological Site
Phelps County
Prehistoric - Late Woodland

Carrington Archaeological Site
Vernon County
Historic - Osage

Hayes Archaeological Site
Vernon County
Historic - Osage

Saline Spring Archaeological Site
Ste. Genevieve County
Prehistoric/Colonial

Nathan Boone Home
St. Charles County
1820

Thespian Hall
Cooper County
1850s

Jesse James Home
Clay County
1860s - 1880s

"Elim", Home of Dr. Wm. Keil
Bethel Colony
Mid 19th Century

David Rankin Mule Barn
Atchison County
1891-1892

Mutual Musicians Hall
Jackson County
20th Century

ICBM Missile Launch Complex
Minuteman II Silo
Western Missouri
Cold War Era (1945 - 1992)

ICBM Missile Control Complex
Minuteman II Launch Control
Facility
Western Missouri
Cold War Era (1945-1992)

Moselle Iron Furnace Stack
Franklin County
1849-1875

Pony Express Stables
Buchanan County
1860-1861

Pelster House-Barn
Franklin County
1860-1864

Laura Ingalls Wilder Home
Wright County
1896-1940s

Kate Chopin Home
St. Louis City
1903-1904

All of these sites retain an acceptable degree of physical integrity, and, in regard to significance -- all are either on (or eligible for) the National Register of Historic Places. Several of them are Registered National Historic Landmarks.

Acquisition of these sites would afford opportunities to interpret historical themes that are conspicuously left out of our system. The Kate Chopin Home and the Laura Ingalls Wilder Home would fill a gap in women's history. Fort Osage would represent Territorial Period fortifications, and, at the same time, provide an opportunity to interpret further the Osage Indian theme and a coincidental touch on Lewis and Clark. "Elim" in the Bethel Colony would allow interpretation of 19th century utopian movements. The Mutual Musicians Hall would enrich the themes of culture and music, and further commemorate the contributions of black Missourians to our state's history.

Chronologically, several of these sites would fill notable gaps in the system. For instance, Fort Osage represents the early settlement period, before statehood, currently under-represented. The Mule Barn in Atchison County dates from the 1890s, a decade that is virtually ignored in the state park system. Laura Ingalls Wilder's Home would afford opportunities to interpret a long period, from the 1890s to the 1940s, during which Mrs. Wilder lived a typical rural Missouri life before achieving fame in her declining years. The Mutual Musicians Hall would represent important cultural themes of the 20th century.

In terms of geography, two of these sites are located in northwestern Missouri, where currently there are no state historic sites. These sites are the Pony Express Stables and the Mule Barn. The James Home would add another property in the Kansas City area where the entire park system is somewhat thin. Representing south central Missouri would be the Laura Ingalls Wilder Home.